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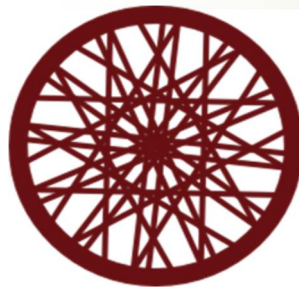
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# Springfield Civic Association

Where we all come together

## *President's Message—Bruce Waggoner*

On behalf of the Springfield Civic Association (SCA) Board of Directors I wish you a happy and healthy 2019. Local construction is a theme for the New Year as the Transportation Security Administration headquarters continues to take shape near the Metro. The building has reached eight stories and is clearly visible from Veterans Bridge and other vantage points in town. The former Safford Dodge dealership at Commerce and Brandon has been demolished; rubble removal is clearing the site for the new LIDL grocery store. These two examples represent strong government and private investment in Springfield. However, areas of concern remain, evident in vacant shops at the Springfield and the Concord Plazas. Also, since our last meeting the SCA has met with Lee District Staff, Garden Apartment management, and a grocery business manager to address abandoned shopping carts strewn about our streets. Some progress was made, but the problem persists as we can attest. We will press on asking for more comprehensive intervention in resolving the blight by working through business, county and state offices. These concerns and others will be raised at our next meeting, 15 January, at Crestwood Elementary School on Hanover Avenue. At that meeting, we will host the Chamber of Commerce and County Revitalization representatives. We have also extended an invitation to Town Center management hoping to learn about mall progress and future plans; we will keep you apprised of their response. Come in from the cold and wet and meet your neighbors. The social begins at 7pm with business beginning promptly at 7:30pm. See you soon.

Sincerely,  
Bruce Waggoner  
SCA President

## *Time to Pay Your Dues*

The SCA would like to remind its members that dues for the 2018-2019 program year are due NOW. Even if you can't attend meetings, your dues help support our many programs and many important local organizations. As you read about our activities and wonder how you can help these worthy causes, remember that your SCA dues are an easy first step toward contributing to their success. Additionally, your dues help defray our operational expenses.

If you've already renewed your SCA membership, thank you! The SCA would not be the strong and vibrant entity that it is without members like you.

If you haven't paid your dues yet, it's not too late. You can pay your dues either by cash or check at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 15th, or you can pay your dues anytime via our website, springfieldcivic.org. Dues are \$15 per household.

**January Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 15**  
**Crestwood ES**

**Social time—7:00pm**  
**Meeting—7:30pm**

**Program:**  
**Springfield**  
**Revitalization**

## Jeff McKay's Update

### The Year Ahead

As I reflect on our successes of 2018, I am even more excited to build upon them in 2019!

Lee District's 2018 was tremendous. It saw the passage of our years-in-the-making Embark Comprehensive Amendment Plan to revitalize the Route One Corridor. It saw the continued successes of Springfield and our Town Center. Also, it saw the reopening of one of our most beloved public libraries, John Marshall.



On the transportation front, 2018 saw the addition of more bike paths and sidewalks, as well as massive investment in our roads and transit systems. The environment also won big, as Fairfax adopted its first-ever Energy Strategy. My motion at the FY 2018 Carryover Package Review on July 31, 2018, began funding the plan, and provided \$4.5 million dollars from the Carryover Budget (to go towards implementing the strategy). Climate change is real, and we must lead on environmental stewardship.

In the New Year, I will continue this momentum. We'll continue to revitalize Springfield and Route One. This includes continued updates in and around Springfield; seeing more retail spaces filled and new "Welcome to Springfield" gateway signs going up. Our work on Route One (via Embark) is also at the forefront of my goals. It's critical that we continue to see that plan come to fruition, especially the widening of Route One transit and pedestrian improvements, along with the addition of new mixed-use projects (like the most recent South Alex project near Huntington Metro Station).

I'm also looking forward to continuing to strengthen the relationship between the Fairfax County Police Department and community through the implementation of reforms addressed in the Ad Hoc Police Reform Report, such as increased transparency and body-worn cameras.

Ensuring the continued success of One Fairfax and the Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT) is also a big goal of 2019. Everyone in Fairfax County should have an equal opportunity to live, work, learn, and play; we can achieve that by measuring all our policy decisions under an intentional equity lens. The zip code you are born into should not dictate your future success.

From my family to yours, I wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!  
Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay

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## Sponsor Spotlight

### Metro Run & Walk (Interview conducted by Barbara Coder)

The Springfield Civic Association is proud to continue to shine a spotlight on its sponsors. Metro Run & Walk is among these valued long-standing sponsors. Mark and Helen Russell are the owners of Metro Run & Walk which is a locally owned, family-run, independent business. Metro Run & Walk has been part of the fabric of the Springfield community since 1998. Helen and Mark purchased the Springfield Plaza business in 2009 from its founder.

Metro Run & Walk prides itself on being a business that serves people with active life styles and promotes foot health for all ages and abilities. While Metro Run & Walk caters to fitness runners and walkers, it also serves people who work on their feet or experience foot pain. Metro Run & Walk's knowledgeable staff is trained to help customers find the right running or walking shoe for their feet. Furthermore, dozens of local medical practices refer patients to Metro Run & Walk, since proper footwear is so important to foot health, injury remediation, and post-surgery rehabilitation. Helen, a certified Pedorthist, can fit those with diabetes and Medicare coverage with insurance-covered footwear (by appointment only).

Staff expertise and commitment to a positive customer experience is what sets Metro Run & Walk apart from its competitors. The store offers an extensive selection of running and walking shoes from top manufacturers. It also offers apparel, sports bras, socks, sports nutrition, and accessories.

Mark and Helen are committed to building a strong relationship with the neighborhoods that surround the Central Springfield district and beyond. They have served on the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and have in years past sponsored fund-raising racing events. Over the last several years, Metro Run & Walk has sponsored a 5K race through the Crestwood neighborhood that starts and ends at the store as part of the annual Springfield Days events. Metro Run & Walk also participates in local health fairs and is available to lend its expertise to local schools and civic organizations.

**metro run & walk**

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The Springfield Civic Association is thankful for Metro Run & Walk for its continued sponsorship. Mark and Helen have graciously provided door prizes for Springfield Civic Association meetings for several years. We invite you to check out Metro Run & Walk's new modernized store at 7289 Commerce St, only four doors down from its previous location, and thank Mark and Helen for their generous support to SCA.

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## Chamber of Commerce Veterans Committee

### Did you know that the Springfield Chamber of Commerce has a Veterans Committee?

The veterans committee considers ways the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce might support veterans in our community, our workforce and as entrepreneurs. If you're an employee or owner of a Chamber member company and interested in serving on this advisory group, please contact the committee chair listed below.

The committee typically meets once a quarter at [Fair Winds Brewing Company](#). Please contact the committee chair listed below to find out when the next meeting will be and how you can get involved.

Help us grow our [Honor Roll](#) of veteran-owned businesses.

Help us recognize local military with our [community service award](#).

### Resources for veterans in the workplace, and employers:

- [Business Case for Hiring a Veteran](#)
- [Hiring Veterans Toolkit](#)
- [Resources for Veterans in Virginia](#)

Chair: [Charles McCaffrey](#) Community Business Partnership 703-768-1440



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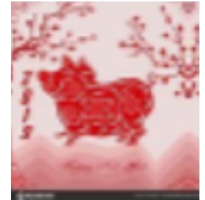
VIENNA  
Fall 2018

## *Woman's Club of Springfield, Inc.*



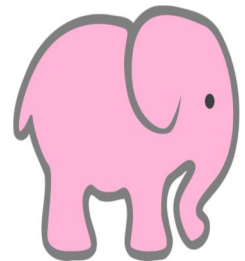
The Woman's Club of Springfield will kick off 2019 with a speaker from Fairfax County, who will talk to us about recycling. Our January meeting is January 8th, at 6:30 p.m., at Grace Presbyterian Church. Visitors will be welcomed at the meeting.

Another favorite activity of our Club will be held on January 27th at 3:30 p.m. We will celebrate Chinese New Year's at the House of Dynasty Restaurant in Hayfield. We look forward to this every year as it is a time of fun and fellowship for our members and their spouses/significant others or friends.



At our February meeting on February 12th, we will have our Annual Arts and Crafts contest, where our members will showcase their art work for the last year. We are always amazed at the number of talented members we have. The work will be judged by two or three local artists, and the blue ribbon winners will then go to the Northern District Spring Meeting in March to be judged. Those winning blue ribbons at the District Meeting will go on to the GFWC Virginia Convention for final judging. We are always proud to come home with a number of blue ribbons.

In the meantime, we stay busy keeping our Pink Elephant Thrift Shop up and running. All of our members who are physically able volunteer their time at least one day per month (and many are happy to work more). We are proud of the many contributions we are able to make because of the money we make in our Shop. We have been in business in the Concord Center for over 55 years. Please stop by and see us — consign or donate, or just spend your money! We will be happy to see you. The Shop is open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday. Items are price to sell!



The Woman's Club of Springfield is open to all women in the Springfield and surrounding areas. If you are interested in joining, please contact our Membership Chairman, Beverly Stoltz, at 703/941-4501. Or — just visit a meeting. Our meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, January through June, September through December, at 6:30 p.m., at Grace Presbyterian Church. We begin with a time of fellowship and refreshments, which is followed by a speaker and then a brief business meeting. We have been a proud member of the Springfield Volunteer Community since March 11, 1954. We are a proud affiliate of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Visit us on the web at [www.womansclubofspringfield.org](http://www.womansclubofspringfield.org); [www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org) to find out more about us.

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### **The Snowman**

I'm a little snowman,  
Short and fat.  
Here is my scarf,  
And here is my hat.  
When it's cold and snowy,  
I will stay.  
But when it gets hot,  
I melt away!



## *Richard Byrd Library*

Richard Byrd Library  
Sandy Freund, Branch Manager

The library rang in the new year a bit early with Noon Year's Eve, a program for children age 3-8 years with adult. Children danced, participated in a countdown to 12:00 (noon), and drank a toast with sparkling cider. A brand-new bubble machine, a gift from retiring circulation manager Dottie Jordan, made its first appearance at this event.

This year Richard Byrd will have a Winter Reading Club. There are actually two clubs, one for children from birth to grade 6 and the other for grades 6-12. The program will run from January 15 to February 28.

Here are a few highlights from our January and February events:

Thursday, January 17, 4:30-5:30 pm. **Legos in the Library.** Design your own awesome LEGO creations! Age 5 to 12.

Friday, January 18, 10:30 am. **A Conversation with Kerry Hannon: Empowering Yourself Personally, Professionally and Financially.** The library partners with the Life Planning Network to present Kerry Hanlon, bestselling author and nationally recognized expert on career transitions, personal finance, entrepreneurship and retirement. Kerry will share the best ways for people to empower themselves personally, professionally and financially now and in the future. Books available for signing and sale. Adult.

Saturday, January 19, 1:00-3:00 pm. **CoderDojo: Teaching Kids to Code.** Free computer programming for young people. Learn to code, develop websites & apps and create games. Please bring a laptop if you can. (A limited number of computers will be available.) Parent must be present if under 10 years old. Ages 7-17. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library and CoderDojo of Northern Virginia. R.

Thursday, January 24, 7:00-8:30 pm. **Financial Literacy Workshop.** Learn the basics of budgeting and banking from the experts! Co-sponsored by Andrews Federal Credit Union and the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Adults.

Saturday, January 26, 9:30 am – 1 pm. **VITA Tax Help.** IRS-trained volunteers assist taxpayers earning up to \$54 K. Adults. This program will be offered every Saturday at this time through Saturday, April 13.

Saturday February 2, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. **Take Your Child to the Library 2019.** Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library. Storytimes at 10:30 and 11:30 and take home crafts. All ages.

Monday, February 4, 2:00-4:00 pm. **Art Splash Adult Workshop.** Register for a fun art lesson by an Abrakadoodle art teacher. Week 1: Skyline Doodle. Held at Cervantes Coffee, 7644 Fullerton Rd. Unit 1, Springfield, 22153. All art materials provided. Adult. R.

Wednesday, February 13, 2:00-4:00 pm. **Art Splash Adult Workshop.** Register for a fun art lesson by an Abrakadoodle art teacher. Week 2: Elspeth McLean Dot Painting Doodle. Held at Cervantes Coffee, 7644 Fullerton Rd. Unit 1, Springfield, 22153. All art materials provided. Adults. R.

Saturday, February 16, 2:00-4:00 pm. **CoderDojo: Teaching Kids to Code.** Free computer programming for young people. Learn to code, develop websites & apps and create games. Please bring a laptop if you can. (A limited number of computers will be available.) Parent must be present if under 10 years old. Ages 7-17. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library and CoderDojo of Northern Virginia. R.

(Continued on page 7)

## *Richard Byrd Library (cont'd)*

Thursday, February 21, 4:30-5:30 pm. **Legos in the Library.** Design your own awesome LEGO creations! Age 5 to 12.  
Thursday, February 21, 7:00-9:00 pm. **Art Splash Adult Workshop.** Register for a fun art lesson by an Abrakadoodle art teacher. Week 3: John Nolan Peacock Doodle. All art materials provided. Adults. R This event will be held at the library.

Monday, February 25, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. **Art Splash Adult Workshop.** Register for a fun art lesson by an Abrakadoodle art teacher. Week 4: Coastal Art Doodle. All art materials are provided. Adults.R. This event will be held at the library.

Monday, February 25, 7:00 – 9:00 pm. **Virginia's Presidential Homes.** Learn about birthplaces and homes of the eight Virginia-born Presidents from archaeologist, historian and author, Patrick O'Neill.

Adults.Wednesday, February 27, 10:30 am. **Moose on the Loose.** Stories and activities for ages 3-5 with adult.

*Please note:* R means registration is required. To register and view all our events, go to the Library's website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

## *Friends of Richard Byrd Library*

### **Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Update Winter/Holiday Sale Success!**

HURRAH for another winter/holiday sale success! The sale raised over \$9,600 to support Richard Byrd Library programs! Our awesome volunteers do an amazingly efficient job setting up for, organizing and clearing out after the sale (more than 670 volunteer hours). The patrons enjoy their shopping experience because we have a very well-organized sale with friendly volunteers to help search for that special something.

Huge thanks to talented artist Heather Cronin (and her daughter) of the Springfield Art Guild for designing and painting the conference room window...the snowperson ready to shop was a big hit! (Library patrons will continue to enjoy it for weeks to come.)

We were able to donate more of the leftovers to worthy endeavors to get books into the broader community (ECHO-backpack program, Fairfax County jail, shelter, Mt Zion UMC--elementary school partner, Food for Others--children's, Homewood suites--fiction).

(Continued on page 8)



## Friends of Richard Byrd Library (cont'd)

### Friends' Choice Awardees: Brian Schulz and Barbara Wright!

On Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> we joined the Library Board of Trustees and many of the Friends' groups to recognize some of our most valued volunteers. We were very excited to recognize two of our star volunteers, Brian Schulz and Barbara Wright!



Brian has been instrumental in the tremendous success of the Richard Byrd Library CoderDojo program. During our 2+ years of CoderDojo Brian emerged as the technical leader and the class leader. He is very patient and understanding when guiding the children and their parents with a wide range of coding skills. He is innovative and creative as he helps all participants improve their skills. Thanks to Brian we enhanced our CoderDojo program by adding "Scratch programming for robots". The young coders write the code that makes the robots come alive...check out the video on our Facebook page! Brian is an outstanding volunteer, we depend on his dedication to keep the CoderDojo program running smoothly.



Barbara began volunteering with the Friends a few years ago at one of our semiannual special book sales. She was such a pleasant, hardworking volunteer that we soon recruited her as a regular daily sale volunteer. Without fail she is always willing to go the extra mile doing whatever is needed to ensure our book sales are successful. She is one of our indefatigable children's room experts and is a wiz at finding the best items for young readers and parents alike. She's full of bright ideas about marketing our children's room during special book sales. Not only does Barbara puts in numerous hours in the workroom every week, she also helps sort and categorize children's books, paperbacks, hard back fiction...you name it and she'll help with it! We are so fortunate to have such a steadfast, reliable volunteer. (Continued on page 9)

*Eddie Greenan*  
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## *Friends of Richard Byrd Library (cont'd)*

### **John Marshall Library Re-opens!**



Ribbon cutting at John Marshall Library

Congratulations to JM! Members of the Board of Supervisors, Library Board of Trustees, FCPL Administration, staff and surrounding community were on hand to cut the ribbon on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> as the renovated facility was opened to the public. It's a beautiful, energy efficient facility ready to serve the community.

The staff members who were working at Richard Byrd during the closure are very pleased with the new facility and eager to reconnect with their loyal patrons. (Note: Friends of the Richard Byrd Library donated books to help re-stock the daily sale area at John Marshall.)

### **Join Us - Be a Friend**

Time to Renew Membership.

We appreciate our volunteers, and if you aren't already a volunteer - please join us. If you'd like to do more, become a dues paying member of the Friends. A \$10 individual or \$20 family annual membership provides you with reserved seating for Friends events, a 4X a year newsletter, and preview shopping at our sales. Why is it important to volunteer and/or become a member? **Well, did you know?**

- Friends pay for all the children's performers at the library.
- Friends pay for the New York Times, Scientific America and 14 other publications.
- Friends provide volunteers for summer reading programs, Reading Buddies, and all or hands on programming.
- Friends run Educators' Night - our program to bring books to our school's classroom libraries.

### **Upcoming Events**

January 17, February 21, March 21, 4:45pm: **Legos in the Library**, Age 5 – 12

January 19, 1 – 3pm: **CoderDojo**

January 24, February 11, March 11, April 22 7pm (pizza at 6:30pm): **Financial Literacy Workshops**

February 16, March 16, 2 – 4pm: **CoderDojo**

### **Follow us on Social Media outlets**

Friends on Facebook at "[FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary](#)"

Instagram at "[bowtiethelibrarypenguin](#)"

Twitter at "[ByrdLibFriends](#)"

Your engagement helps us reach an even broader audience!

**Volunteer:** Looking for a volunteer opportunity...come join the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library! Contact us at: [rbfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rbfriends@gmail.com). Teen volunteers, Saturdays 12 – 2pm.

**Donations:** As always, we welcome all donations of gently used books (print and audio), DVDs, CDs and LPs. Donation receipts provided upon request.

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## American Association of University Women

### New Members Event

The Springfield-Annandale branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will welcome new members at a meeting at Milano's Restaurant, 6230G Rolling Road in Springfield at 2:00 on January 26.

The meeting will include speakers and light refreshments. All are welcome.

For more information call 703-494-9656.

### GrandInvolve

**Come join us!** GrandInvolve is expanding in the Springfield area and we're looking for kind and patient individuals who love children to volunteer in the classrooms of our Title 1 Elementary Schools. Crestwood Elementary and Lynbrook Elementary both have active GrandInvolve programs. In January we intend to add Garfield Elementary as well as other Lee District Title 1 Schools. We will need a coordinator for each of the schools before we begin supplying classroom volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or perhaps taking on a leadership position at Garfield or one of the other schools, come to our Information Session, Learn About a Typical Day in our Elementary Schools. Come find out what a typical day in Lee District Elementary Schools looks like. Then meet GrandInvolve Volunteers for an informative session on "How to Volunteer in Your Local School!" GrandInvolve volunteers will be present to talk about their experiences and tell some heart-

warming stories of their time with Fairfax County's youngest students. Learn how to use your skills and experience to help students in our local community succeed in school. Richard Byrd Library - 7250 Commerce St, Springfield - January 11, 2019 from 1:00 - 3:00. In case of inclement weather (when FCPS schools are closed or delayed) this event will be canceled. For more information, contact Dorothy Keenan at [info@grandinvolve.org](mailto:info@grandinvolve.org) or visit our website at [www.grandinvolve.org](http://www.grandinvolve.org)

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## Springfield Art Guild



### **(SAG) Invites You to Our Guest Speaker Series and our Show at the Franconia Government Center**

Meetings are **free** and open to the public.

SAG continues to enjoy bringing guest speakers and art shows to our community. SAG currently has a members' **art show** at the Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Rd, Alexandria, VA 22310 which you can enjoy until March 1, 2019. Lee District Supervisor Jeffery McKay will hold an open house and SAG's reception at the Government Center on January 12<sup>th</sup> 11:00AM. Come hear about what is happening in our community and enjoy SAG's art show and a chance to win free raffled art prizes.



**Guest Speaker:** Our January meeting (9<sup>th</sup>) is all about learning how to finish a painting. We are excited to have **Gonzalo Ruiz Navarro** <https://www.gonzaloruiznavarro.com/> as our guest speaker.

Navarro is an oil and pastel painter. He teaches classes at Glenn Echo. SAG members will bring in an unfinished painting for a "Works in Progress" critique by Navarro.

Navarro will provide constructive comments to help the artists finish a painting or art piece. Hearing his suggestions is like taking an art class. It is amazing what you can learn just listening to advice provided on multiple pieces of art.

**January Guest Speaker meeting:** Wednesday, January 9, 2018, 6:30-9:00PM

**Where:** **In the auditorium at Grace Presbyterian Church, [7434 Bath St, Springfield, VA 22150](#).** Park in the lower lot on Church and come up the stairs on your left. If you have problems with stairs you can park on Bath St. and enter at the door on the right.

6:30pm - Doors open with refreshments & socializing with other local artists

7:00pm – Art talk and a Short business meeting

7:30-9:00. Guest speaker presentation

**SAG** is a non-profit group that serves the community's interest in fine arts, fine crafts, and photography. It's a wonderful group of artists ranging hobbyists to professionals. SAG sponsors and supports educational programs, art exhibits, juried shows, classes for adults and children, art scholarships, and local art events. Along with showcasing artists/guest speakers & events at monthly meetings, SAG invites everyone in our community to enjoy SAG's website, our online newsletter, members' gallery, and links to members' Web pages. By joining SAG, local artists can participate in the full range of SAG activities, shows, network with other artists, and help promote and enlarge our service to SAG members and the community at large.

**For more information** about SAG and/or membership go to our website [www.springfieldartguild.org](http://www.springfieldartguild.org) When you visit our website check out our great newsletters with more information about SAG and its activities.

[December newsletter](#)

## Six Tips to Prevent Frozen Water Pipes

When cold spells set in this winter, that spells potential trouble for your water pipes. Here are some steps you can take to avoid frozen pipes when colder weather fills the air this winter:

1. Always know where your main water shut off valve is located.
2. If you haven't already, **make sure the water line to outside faucets is turned off and the line is drained.** Drain each outdoor spigot after turning off the valve to prevent any remaining water from freezing and bursting the pipes. Some spigots have anti-siphon devices that must be opened to properly drain the line.
3. If your water pipes do freeze, **never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame or torch.** Always be careful of the potential for electric shock in and around standing water.
4. If you will be away from your home, **keep the thermostat at a reasonable temperature to make sure all areas with water pipes are kept above freezing.**
5. **Eliminate drafts.** Check around the home for areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas and take measures to prevent the flow of cold air in these areas. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated. Insulation supplies are available at your local home improvement or hardware store. Want to find those drafts? [Then borrow a thermal camera from a library!](#)
6. **Whenever temperatures drop into the teens,** it's suggested you leave a thin, steady stream of water running. This stream should measure out to be about a quarter gallon of water per minute.

If you have questions or need assistance, contact [Fairfax Water](#) at 703-698-5800 during normal business hours or after-hours/emergency number 703-698-5613.



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## *Thanks To All of Our SCA Advertisers and Supporters!*

Members of the SCA worked together to bake and deliver cookie boxes to all of the businesses and people who supported and advertised with us in 2018. Volunteers put together 24 decorated boxes for delivery. Every box contained two pounds of delicious, homemade cookies, brownies, toffee, brittle and bark.



See all the cookie recipients with their cookie boxes on pages 14, 15, and 16.

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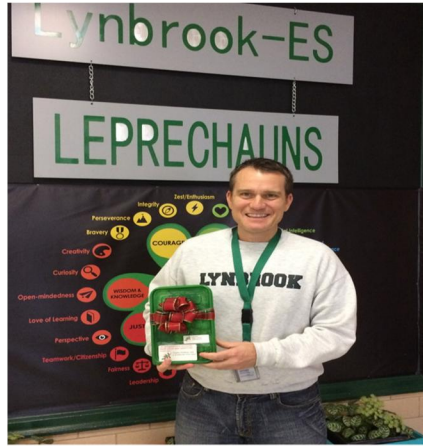
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**Many thanks to our 2018 bakers:**

Peggy Butenhoff, Virginia Clark, Mark DePhillipo, Michele Duell, Julie Embree, Susann Finch, Susan Frieswyk, Phyllis Hycza, Jennifer Isenberg, Jan Johnson, Debbie Mays, Nancy Michie, Marta Morrissey, Peggy Mullen, Gail Nittle, Gayle Parsons, Lee Paulson and Marsha Waggoner.



## *Trails for Youth*

### **STEM Education for Springfield Girls** **It's the wheel deal!**

On a bicycle, the stem is an important component. It not only places your controls where you can reach them, but helps you set direction for your future. STEM education is just as important in life. Having a firm grasp of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) will help you reach your goals and navigate through life, regardless of the direction chosen. Thanks to a grant from the Northern Virginia Community Foundation's Women's Business Giving Circle, Springfield girls in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to learn and see key STEM principles such as physics, chemistry and biology from the seat of a bicycle.

Susan B Anthony once said "I think bicycling has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. TrailsforYouth.Org agrees with the famous suffragette, and is creating a *curriculum* to show how embracing STEM principles can be equally empowering, using bicycles as our educational tool. Over an eight week period, young ladies from the Lee High School Pyramid in grades 5-8 will be taught cognitive skills, researching, and basic STEM lessons in a classroom setting. Then, using bicycles and hands-on activities, TYO youth will embark on a bike ride where they can put their education to the test, riding through Springfield's wonderful parkland and performing science experiments in the world's greatest laboratory-- Nature. Every ride with TYO or on their own will offer numerous opportunities for future learning and applying their newfound cycling and mental skills.



TYO's goal is that these youth will understand and embrace how scientific principles play a role in their daily lives and future endeavors, both in the classroom and in life. TYO will continue to enhance the curriculum and utilize it for future groups and rides. If you know a girl who would be interested in partici-

pating, there are a few spots open. Classes start in late January. Please contact [julie@trailsforyouth.org](mailto:julie@trailsforyouth.org).



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

## *Lake Accotink Park*

### **Lake Accotink Park (LAP)- Experience Solitude**

It's hard to believe that the beltway is less than a mile away when you're standing on the tranquil and quiet shores of Lake Accotink Park. This 493 acre park provides excellent opportunities to relax, learn, and enjoy the natural resources of both Lake Accotink and Accotink Creek. In addition to trail systems and waterfront activities Lake Accotink Park offers many family-friendly activities including, picnic areas, class, camps, and special events.

Lake Accotink Staff and Volunteers are staying busy during our off season preparing new programs and our facilities for the upcoming season.

#### **Programming and Events:**

Karen Roos (Program Manager and Resident Naturalist) and Joshua Smith (Park Manager) have been working diligently to assess program offerings for Spring, Summer and Fall 2019. We are looking to offer a variety of programs that will enrich the communities connection to Lake Accotink and the unique natural resources it possesses. Our goal is to offer something for all ages and abilities so that LAP is a community hub for ALL. Additionally we are putting significant effort into our upcoming summer camp program. We intend to offer a program that is FUN, safe, educational and will create last memories for the youth in our communities during the summer months.

Erin Gray (Operations Manager) and team put on a very fun and well attended Fall Fest. The event included hayrides, carnival games, arts and crafts activities, face painting, a nature talk, bonfire fire with s'mores, and mini golf. It was a great way to celebrate fall at Lake Accotink.

We were excited to host our Holiday Fun event Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. Ole' Saint Nick stopped by to take pictures, we had wagon rides along the enchanted trail, a bonfire with sweet treats, and hot beverages to help keep your spirits bright! We had a nature talk that answered the question of: Where have all of our animal friends gone?

#### **Volunteerism and Community Connections:**

We love our volunteers and friends groups! On October 13, LAP hosted the Intercostal Waterways cleanup day, bringing over 40 volunteers to the park to help remove trash from Lake Accotink and Accotink Creek. Outside of the intercostal waterways cleanup event we had 21 volunteer hours worked in October, 25 volunteer hours in November and are on pace for a similar number of hours for December. We are lining up a number of projects for early spring that will require volunteer assistance, be on the lookout for ways you can help Lake Accotink Park in the coming months. To learn more about how to volunteer now or for upcoming volunteer events please visit our [volunteer website](#) and create an account!

Joshua Smith (Park Manager) has been making his rounds, introducing himself to key community groups. He recently met with leadership from FLAP and will be attending their meeting scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>. He also attended the Save Lake Accotink meeting held on November 26. Josh also will be attending the Springfield Civic Association Meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup> and hopes to also attend the RFCA meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup>. LAP is open and ready to receive the community, please stop by the visitor center to chat with us, your feedback and questions are always welcome!

(Continued on page 19)

## Lake Accotink Park (cont'd)

### Facility Maintenance and Improvements:

Since October we have addressed a number of facility maintenance issues, as well as started a number of ongoing projects including;

- Repairing potholes in high traffic areas
- Replacing the old fishing platform off the trestle lot. The picnic table will be back in place in Q1 of 2019.
- Adding an accessible boat launch was and is available for use by the community
- Addressing ruts along the beach by bringing in fill sand
- Reconfiguring our picnic area to make them more user friendly
- Working on solutions for the debris at the top of the spillway
- Parts for the carousel repair have arrived!
- Added new single and tandem kayaks have arrived!
- Working with FLAP to create a new pollinator. The existing garden will be removed to improve the visibility and safety of the traffic circle

As previously mentioned we are working on organizing a number of volunteer events come spring that will help us with general maintenance and improvements of our “core area” of the park. Please be on the lookout for those opportunities!

### Meet Josh Smith, Lake Accotink's New Park Manager

A Virginia Beach native, Josh studied at Radford University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Parks and Tourism Management. Since graduating, Joshua has gained over 10 years of experience in his field of study, holding leadership positions in the private, non-profit, and now government sector. Josh has been with FCPA since May 2017 serving as a contract coordinator for the Aquatic section. Prior to coming to work for FCPA, Josh worked for the YMCA of Metropolitan Washington for seven years, holding positions as SACC director, program director, aquatics director and finally associate executive director for the YMCA Silver Spring in Maryland.

Josh has a passion for serving his local community through parks and recreation and he considers this position to be a major milestone in his career. He is eager to get to know the park and its surrounding community, and looks forward to elevating the park to new heights in both operations and programming.

Welcome to Springfield, Josh!



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## *Friends of Lake Accotink Park*

### **From the FLAP President, Mary Keeser:**

Farewell to Lake Accotink Park Manager, Julie Tahan. We are grateful for her outreach to the community. And welcome aboard to Joshua Smith. Joshua has embraced his new position and has hit the ground running with the many activities at hand.

We are in need of FLAP Committee Members - just a few hours a month results in huge impacts. If you can chair, co-chair or even just lend some moral support to any of the current vacancies, which are Stewardship, Recreation, Fundraising or Special Projects Committees please send an e-mail to Tony Vellucci, [vice.president@flapaccotink.org](mailto:vice.president@flapaccotink.org)

Our Community Volunteers are making an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT not only on Lake Accotink trails, streams and the marina, but also to the entire watershed with our Lake Accotink clean-ups. We have removed thousands of pounds of trash including bike frames, tires, construction pipes, bed frames, buckets, shoes, planters, lighters, fishing poles, glass bottles, plastic bottles, straws, containers, newspaper bags, trash bags, tennis balls, softballs, baseballs, footballs and way too much more. Read about the other ways that FLAP is working to improve our watershed in our newsletter.

Happy New Year to all, and be sure to find some time in 2019 to enjoy your park.

### **From the Park Manager, Joshua Smith**

I am extremely excited to be a part of Lake Accotink Park, one of the most unique and beautiful natural resources that Fairfax County has to offer. In the last seven weeks I have been greeted warmly by an eager and dedicated staff, a community with a deep appreciation and love for Lake Accotink Park, and a park with incredible natural resources and tremendous potential. My vision for Lake Accotink Park is to create a community hub that expands on its well established place in the community. LAP staff wants to work hand in hand with all stakeholders to expand usership, education, and conservancy at Lake Accotink Park. On behalf of Lake Accotink and its staff, we are excited to be a part of this community, our doors are open and ready to welcome the community to Lake Accotink Park!

For more information about the Friends of Lake Accotink Park, please read their [December 2018 newsletter here](#).



## *ECHO News*

For those who participate in the Combined Federal Campaign or the United Way, please remember that ECHO is a member in good standing of both charitable campaigns. Our CFC number is 74224 and our United Way number is 8426.

As you head into a new year, you might be looking for ways to enrich your life by sharing some of your time and talent with others. Our School Partnership Program is looking for people who can spare 30 minutes a week or more to encourage local students and help them be successful. You don't need a degree or special skills. ECHO also has opportunities for daytime and evening volunteers—working with clients, or working with donations. Read about the many kinds of volunteer opportunities on ECHO's website at [echo-inc.org](http://echo-inc.org) under the Volunteer tab.

### Food Drives

January - Kirkwood Presbyterian and Sydenstricker UMC

### Upcoming Dates to Note

January 5 - Saturday opening

January 21 - Closed for Martin Luther King Day

January 28 - Executive Comm. meets 7:30 at ECHO

For more information about ECHO on the following topics, please click the links to our website:

[Join our Tutor or Mentor Program](#)

[Things ECHO Needs Right Now](#)

[Check us out on Facebook](#)

[Volunteer Positions Needed Right Now](#)

[Donate Money](#)

[Donate School Supplies](#)

[Donations ECHO Can and Cannot Accept](#)

**ECHO is all about Community - it is our "middle name", and it is the heart of our success!**

## *Starting a Business in Virginia?*

The Springfield Chamber of Commerce has information you can use if you are starting a business in Virginia.

Starting a business is exciting and, often, challenging. Virginia values its businesses and efforts have been taken to make starting a business a rewarding experience. Information on the chamber's website (listed below) will help make the process flow more smoothly:

- [Steps to Get Started](#)—Visit the Virginia Business One Stop website for an overview of how to embark on your entrepreneurial adventure. Go to [bos.virginia.gov](http://bos.virginia.gov).
- [Choosing a Business Structure](#)—Evaluate the benefits and limitations of each business structure before choosing which one is the right fit based on your business needs and goals. Go to [sba.gov](http://sba.gov) for more information.
- [Business Tax Identification \(ID\)](#) - Obtain your federal and state tax ID with this online registration tool on the Virginia Business One Stop website. Go to [bosapp.cyberdatainc.com](http://bosapp.cyberdatainc.com).

See more about doing business with Virginia at <https://www.virginia.gov/services/do-business-with-virginia/>



PO Box 842  
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**January Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Jan. 15**

**Crestwood Elementary**  
**Social time: 7:00**  
**Meeting: 7:30**

**Program:**  
**Springfield**  
**Revitalization**

***PLEASE JOIN US!***



**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](http://www.springfieldcivic.org) to join or renew online.

- Join SCA  Renew my membership  Add or change contact information
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