

Springfield Reporter

November 2022

Volume 39, Issue 2

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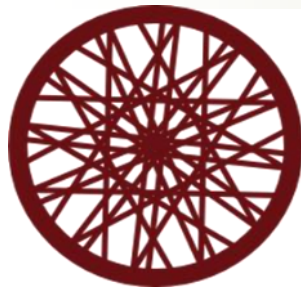
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Springfield Civic Association

President's Message—Gail Nittle

We're going back to meeting in person!!

Please join us for our November 15th General Membership Meeting at Crestwood Elementary School (6010 Hanover Avenue, Springfield). Social time will start at 7 pm in the school cafeteria followed by our meeting at 7:30. The presentation on the 15th will be on the recently completed Springfield Market Study. Speaking will be Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Eric Christensen (Springfield Town Center) and Steven Tarhiti (Director, Market Intelligence Fairfax County Economic Development Authority). You won't want to miss this meeting! See the photo below of the Mt. Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Springfield Market Study October presentation.



(photo: l-r Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Steven Reilly presenting for HR&A Advisors, Inc., Eric Christensen and Steven Tarhiti)



We still have no updates on the dredging of Lake Accotink or any movement on the proposed self-storage unit at Brandon Avenue. There IS progress being made on the bridge over the dam outflow. Lake Accotink is exceptionally beautiful this time of year – well worth a visit!

There are lots of things happening here in Central Springfield. Come and hear all about them – at least what definitely can be shared for sure.

Thanks to Mike Slater for organizing the Halloween Decorations Contest again this year! Check out pg. 19 of this newsletter as well as the SCA Facebook page for some great photos!

Future meetings: January 17, 2023; March 21, 2023; and May 16, 2023.

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, November 15th!

~Gail

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November Meeting

November 15, 2022

7:00pm—Social

7:30—Meeting

Crestwood Elementary School

Topic:

Springfield Market Study -

A Look at the Future Business Landscape of Springfield



The SCA is returning to in-person meetings!!

Join the SCA Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00pm at Crestwood Elementary School for a meeting to hear about the recent Springfield Market Study.

Masks are optional.

## Supervisor Lusk Update

Dear Springfield Civic Association Members,



I'm happy to announce that the Workforce Innovation Skills Hub (W.I.S.H.) is now open! Just twenty-five minutes from Springfield, Fairfax County residents have a new resource to break into a career that pays at least \$20 an hour. If you or someone you know are unemployed, underemployed, or ready to move into a career that provides a middle-class income, then visit us at the W.I.S.H! We have established partnerships with employers in our region who are looking to fill vacancies and



engage students through programming that will open their minds to the in-demand careers of the future.

The W.I.S.H. is located in the Hybla Valley Community Center, 7950 Audubon Ave, Alexandria. Please email my office at [leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you are interested in signing up for classes.

Contact my office:  
Email: [leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov) (My team is working on an updated email) Phone: 703-971-6262  
It is an honor to be your Franconia District Supervisor, Rodney

## Lake Accotink Dam Stream Crossing Project Update

Construction is progressing on the Lake Accotink Dam Stream Crossing Project, the Fairfax County Park Authority reports. The project involves 300 linear feet of asphalt trail improvements and 325 linear feet on an elevated concrete pedestrian crossing over the dam outfall in Lake Accotink Park in Springfield.

The Park Authority contracted with Franco’s Liberty Bridge Inc. to carry out the work. The cost of the entire project is just over \$3 million.

The project is expected to be completed in early 2023.

The Lake Accotink Loop Trail is one of the most heavily used trails in the county’s park system.

The existing pedestrian and vehicular crossing at the outfall of the Lake Accotink dam floods suddenly and frequently, often stranding trail users and tempting them to wade through swiftly running water.

The trail has had to be reconstructed twice in the past five years due to damage from major storms. This project will provide a permanent solution while improving safety and accessibility for park users.





## Origins of Veterans Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C., became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans. Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11 a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day", receiving its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action.

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day," which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American war dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier of World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others but was later identified and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard), keeps day and night vigil.

The focal point for official, national ceremonies for Veterans Day continues to be the memorial amphitheater built around the Tomb of the Unknowns. At 11 a.m. on November 11, a combined color guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the tomb. The nation's tribute to its war dead is symbolized by the laying of a presidential wreath. The bugler plays "taps." The rest of the ceremony takes place in the amphitheater.



# Trails for Youth News

## Fun, Fitness and Rolling Fun at Brookfield Bicycle Park with TrailsforYouth.Org

It's been over a year since the addition to the bicycle pump track at Brookfield Park was completed with wooden features. Has it made a difference? Absolutely. At any given day there are families with kids of all ages learning and honing their bicycle skills. The bicycle skills area – pump track and obstacle course – provide hundreds of hours of physical activity and fun to our SCA community.

TrailsforYouth.Org (TYO) has had weekly events at Brookfield to help showcase the bike skills area and mentor youth on the joys and health benefits of bicycling. We have been providing hundreds of hours of activity at the park, while also helping to clean up the trash and showcase the many features the park has to offer to our community. We are incredibly grateful for the support of the SCA community. We will be back at Brookfield next Spring to usher in new bikers to learn or hone their mountain bike skills.

So, what's next for bicycling at Brookfield Park, you ask? Well, TYO in partnership with lead trail advocates Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) are in conversations with Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) to properly complete the trail that connects Brookfield Park to the Cross-County Trail (CCT). This trail is indicated on the Master Plan and once completed, it will have a boardwalk element at the perpetually damp intersection of the trail and the CCT. MORE will also lead a reroute of the current trail that will create a sustainable safer trail away from the creek bed (currently eroding) that is enjoyable by bikers and walkers alike. Creating this trail provides SCA residents a nature-based opportunity to explore the various parks along the CCT without having to share limited and potentially dangerous motor vehicle park access points. Currently we are waiting for final documentation from the FCPA to start and MORE is "shovel-ready" with earmarked private funds to assist this effort, along with a group of volunteers ready to start. We are hopeful this project can move along quickly for the SCA community to enjoy safe equitable non-vehicular access points to the CCT, Lake Accotink and other nature areas. In addition to these efforts, the same volunteers will continue to repair and maintain the bicycle pump track and obstacle course and provide services to local youth.

Recently, TYO was excited to support SCA families at Lynbrook Elementary through our STEM and biking fun challenge. During the school food distribution event, TYO had a station for kids to learn probabilities and try and win a bicycle and helmet. Kids in grades 2-6 competed and learned that math is fun! We encouraged all the youth to join us at Brookfield Park bike skills area next Spring. We were very grateful for Meta who donated the bikes and for our partner at Lynbrook to help us engage future TYO youth participants.

It's been a busy Fall season for TYO, and we look forward to working with the SCA community to mentor youth and engage in outdoor activity that promotes a healthy body and mind. If you see us at Brookfield or on the trails at Lake Accotink, please say hello and introduce yourself. We'd love to chat with you about TYO and are happy to provide updates! For more information about TrailsforYouth.Org please visit our website [www.trailsforyouth.org](http://www.trailsforyouth.org) or Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/TrailsforYouth.Org](http://www.facebook.com/TrailsforYouth.Org)




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## *Snakes in Springfield? Yikes!!*

Many people are frightened by the sudden appearance of a snake on their property. Others are not frightened but are curious about why snakes may cross a yard or even enter a home. The following information will shed some light on snake behavior how to respond.

### **Why are there snakes in my yard?**

Snakes play an important role in maintaining the natural environment. Along with other reptiles, they make up a significant proportion of the middle-order predators that keep natural ecosystems working. Without them, the numbers of prey species would increase to unnatural levels and the predators that eat snakes would struggle to find food.

Snakes usually prefer to retreat when encountered but, if they feel threatened, they can become defensive. Most snake bites are received by people who try to capture or kill a snake. If you encounter a snake, don't panic. Back away to a safe distance and allow the snake to move away. Snakes often want to escape when disturbed. When left alone, snakes present little or no danger to people.

### **How do I "make sure" there are no snakes on my property?**

While that isn't possible, you can make your yard less attractive to prey and predators alike, especially snakes.

You can take measures to reduce the attractiveness of your yard or house to snakes. If you have a rock wall or other structure that has the potential to house frogs and rats, and in turn attract snakes, discourage these animals by blocking holes. Actively discourage rats and mice, and snake-proof your aviaries and poultry pens.

Ensure that the yard is tidy with shrubs and gardens kept away from the house. Tidy up your yard during the colder months when snakes are less active. Snakes will shelter in houses, under shrubs and in timber stacks to avoid the hottest parts of the day. It is also important to ensure that food scraps are disposed of properly to discourage rats and mice as snakes are attracted to places where they can obtain food. Bird owners should also discourage rodents by ensuring that aviaries are kept clean and hygienic and that the mesh is small enough to stop snakes entering.

Blocking off as many potential access points as possible can significantly reduce the chance of snakes entering your house. Install screens on doors and windows. Block any holes around the house including those between the roof and ceiling. Extra care should be taken during summer when the snakes are most active. In areas that experience flooding, snakes will move to higher ground during a flood. Take extra precautions at these times.



Read more about living with snakes:

- [Coexisting with Wild Snakes](#) by Mike Ban Valen, Founder of Wild Snakes: Education and Discussion
- Good blog <https://dwr.virginia.gov/blog/a-snake-in-the-grass-is-a-very-good-thing/>
- <https://environment.des.qld.gov.au/wildlife/animals/living-with/snakes>
- [Keeping Snakes Away: Advice for a Wildlife Biologist](#) by Christopher E. Smith, FieldEcology.com

The information in this article was provided by Kelly Geer, a wildlife biologist and member of K2C Wildlife Encounters, LLC, a group of trained volunteers that specialize in trapping and relocating snakes and educating the public on the critical role that snakes play in the environment.

## Friends of Richard Byrd Library Update

### Richard Byrd Library Hours

Mon 1- 9pm, Tue – Sat 10am – 6pm, Sun closed

Curbside Services Continue to be Offered

Mon 1 – 4pm, Tue – Sat 10am – 4pm

In person programs are resuming at the library, be sure to check the website events calendar for regular updates: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/richard-byrd>

### Upcoming Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Used Book Sale!!

Great bargains on winter reading and holiday gifts. All ages.

NEW: Thursday evening hours added.

Preview Sale: Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2 – 5pm, \$10 admission fee.

Open to all: Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 10am – 8:30pm

Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10am – 6pm

Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10am – 6pm

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 12 – 2pm, Bag Sale (fill up a bag with books for \$5/bag; we supply the bags)

### Friends' Choice Awardees—Women's Club of Springfield

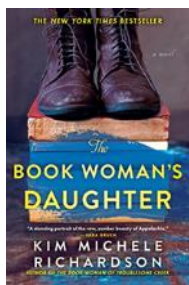


On Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, we were super excited to recognize The Woman's Club of Springfield with a Friends' Choice Award! The Woman's Club, established 1954, owns/operates *The Pink Elephant Thrift Store*. Profits are used for philanthropic projects in the community. In 1958, the Club played a major role in establishing the Richard Byrd Library by donating more than \$6,000. They've been supporting the library ever since. In 2013, the Club was a key partner in the library's 55th Anniversary celebration; the full day of events was a resounding success! They supported annual Educators' Night from 2013 to 2019 to show support for teachers at local Title I elementary schools. For several years Club members have volunteered at the Friends' two annual special book sales and routinely donate funds to various initiatives. The cheerful, hardworking Club volunteers are always a bright spot during our arduous book sale setup days (organizing is their specialty). We are grateful for the Woman's Club's steadfast, generous support of our library and the greater Springfield community.

### Book Review: *The Book Woman's Daughter*

by Claudia Moore

The wait is over!! The story of Cussy Mary, a librarian on mule-back, sharing reading materials with the hill folk of Kentucky in *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson continues with the next generation. Opening in 1953 sixteen years after the first novel concludes, the reader meets some of the same characters (Junia, the colorful mule), along with many new Appalachian heroes/heroines (Pearl, the new fire watcher) and a few bullies too. The central character is Honey Mary Angeline, Cussy Mary's adopted daughter, who knows she could be taken to reform school/prison with her only crime being that of a child without a guardian. The social worker has described the horrible working conditions she would be living in as her parents have been forced to return to prison for violating the miscegenation laws. But Honey Mary Angeline is hired to follow in her mother's footsteps carrying reading materials to the distant hill hollers. She works hard to be independent, but will it be enough for the courts to allow her to keep her freedom? The plot is complicated because there are bullies who want to stop the flow of modern ideas, especially those which increase the role of women at home and in the male dominated workplace (coal mines). The novel concludes with photographs of some of the actual women who were librarians, nurses and fire watchers. This delightful continuation of the original story is sure to please those who fell in love with Cussy Mary and were disappointed when the story ended.

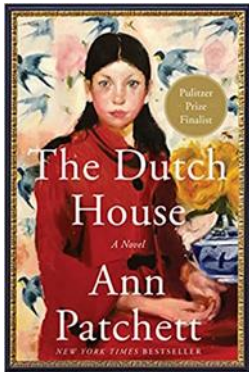


(Continued on pg. 7)

## Friends of Richard Byrd Library Update

### Book Review: *The Dutch House*

by Janet Cameron



The so-called "Dutch House" titling this 2019 novel from Ann Patchett is a mansion in the Dutch colonial style located in the tony Elkins Park neighborhood of suburban Philadelphia. With a ballroom on the second of its three stories and so many large windows and French doors on its ground level that from the street one can literally see through the house, it's an opulent and impractical curiosity. While the Dutch House plays a pivotal role in the lives of all the story's characters and their relationships with one another, it has a unique meaning for each of them.

Danny Conroy is the narrator of the tale, and we learn the story of the Dutch House through his memories and experiences. To Danny the house is simply his childhood home and for him the only home he knows until he must leave it under difficult circumstances. Danny is very close to his much older sister, Maeve, but for Maeve the house has a different significance. Maeve's attachment to the Dutch House is much more complex than Danny's: it's not just the home she loves, it is a place she cannot let go of, and it's also at the center of tensions that can tear apart the security of the family she loves. Maeve allows her obsession with the Dutch House to determine the course of her life, and because of Danny's deep and unquestioning loyalty to his sister, for many years it shapes his life too.

To Maeve and Danny's father, Cyril, the Dutch House represents material success, a tangible symbol that he has risen above the struggles of his earlier life and achieved his ambitions. His second wife, Andrea, shares a similar view of the house, investing the affluence it represents with a certainty of happiness. By contrast, the feelings toward the house of Elna, Danny and Maeve's mother, could not be more different. The splendor of the grand house and its contents is so much at odds with Elna's devotion to humility and self-sacrifice, that to live in it seems unbearable to her.

Patchett spins her tale with her usual mastery, her characters well-rounded and compelling, her writing evocative, her plot drawing her readers inexorably through the pages. We see the darkness, we feel the snowflakes, and we want to know how and why things come to be as they are.

#### Branches Accepting Credit/Debit Cards

The Friends' Daily Sale area is behind the Checkout Desk. Amazing bargain prices! Stop by to find your next great read! During the national coin shortage, the library is able to accept only credit/debit payments for purchases.

#### Follow us on Social Media outlets

Friends on Facebook at "[FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary)"

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## *Springfield Youth ‘Flies High’ in Cheerleading*

### **SYC Cheer!**

By Mila Garcia, Age 10, Springfield, VA

Do you like yelling? Do you like working in a team? Do you like performing in front of people? Well, if you like all these things then I think you should try SYC Cheer!

Hi, I'm Mila and I just want to say how much fun SYC Cheer is. First off there are two kinds of SYC Cheer. All Stars and Rec.

For Rec you just have to sign-up. There's a kickoff where all the rec cheerleaders learn new cheers and perform for the parents and other squads. There are also games where you perform. For fall you would do football games. For winter you would cheer for basketball. Practice is once a week and that's where you learn more cheers and your pep rally routine. The pep rally is where you perform cheers, a dance, and stunts.

Stunting is one of my favorite parts of cheer! Stunts are skills that a group of cheerleaders do. The flyer is the one in the air. I am a flyer. There's a back spot that helps the flyer get up in the air and supports the butt of the flyer. The bases are the cheerleaders who hold up the flyer. Then there's the front spot who holds and helps tighten the flyer's legs. In All Stars you learn harder stunts than Rec cheer.

All Star cheer, oh where should I begin?! It has everything. Fun uniforms, amazing events, an amazing team, and awesome coaches. You also have to try out, you don't just sign-up.

For All Star cheer you get to have amazing experiences. You go to camp, perform in a Fourth of July parade, do THE Navy football game performance, cheer for the Wizards (the basketball team), and so many more things!

For all these performances you must work hard to learn the dance, stunts, and cheers. You have practices on Mondays and Fridays every week. The coaches push you hard. Sometimes you might feel like crying or you might actually cry. Well your team is your family and they are there for you.

You might think that this is only for girls. Well, you're wrong! We have a boy on one of our squads. Also, you "graduate" SYC cheer in 8th grade so you are ready for high school cheer.

I think if you tried SYC cheer you might just have an amazing time. You might find a new passion. I know I did!

Register for SYC Cheer at <https://www.sycva.com/cheerleading>!





## September Is The Time to Pay SCA Dues!

The new membership year for the Springfield Civic Association (SCA) begins in September of each year so dues for the 2022-2023 program year are due NOW.

**Due to increased activities and expenses, dues for one year have been increased to \$20.00 per household.**

The funds raised from dues go directly to help support the SCA and its programs which directly benefit our community. If you have supported the SCA in the past by being a member, thank you! We hope you'll renew your membership now. If you have attended meetings or joined in activities as a non-paying participant, please consider becoming a paid member. One of the SCA's goals is to bring people together and encourage them to be active in community affairs. We advocate for our community's interests and concerns through local government and other entities. Please partner with us by renewing or starting your paid membership NOW and by getting involved!

Dues can be paid via PayPal, using our website at [www.springfieldcivic.org](http://www.springfieldcivic.org), or by sending a check to SCA, P.O. Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150. Thank you in advance for supporting the SCA in its effort to enhance the quality of life in Springfield.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT!**



**Exciting news!**

Now more than ever, you need the help of a real estate professional. After 20 years as your local Springfield agent and now as part of one of Virginia's best producing teams, I am even better situated to help you get the most out of your home sale or purchase. And as your neighbor for over 25 years, I have a vested interest in our city, community and our shared property values.

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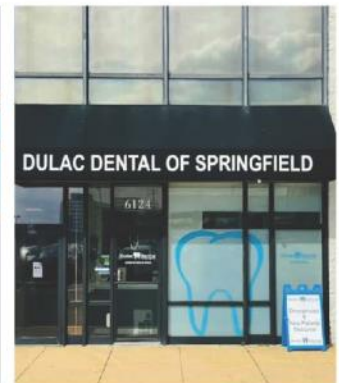
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# Community Advisory Committee—CAC

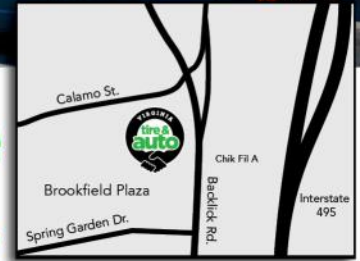
Dear Franconia Community,

Thanks again for all of your candy donations! The County Trunk or Treat was a huge success. They had over one thousand people come through. The CAC decorated two trunks for the Franconia Station...a skeleton jail theme and a Hocus Pocus theme with a bubble machine and an animated broom.

~Kim Barber



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## *ECHO Gets Ready for the Holidays!*



Thanksgiving and Christmas can be extra difficult for families experiencing financial hardship, but ECHO can connect donors with struggling local families who will appreciate the gift of groceries for a festive holiday meal. Again, this year, we suggest that donors give grocery gift cards so clients can purchase foods their families prefer, though delivery of groceries is also an option. Thanksgiving meals should be delivered to recipient families no later than November 19, and Christmas meals by December 18. To get more information and/or participate as a donor, contact [franalaneck@msn.com](mailto:franalaneck@msn.com). You will receive information from Fran or from Sue Anne Sobart in November.

The ECHO elves are getting ready to bring some fun! ECHO collects new toys/gifts for children aged 0 to 15 and displays them in a store-like setting so that client parents may choose gifts appropriate for their families. Donors make this possible by providing new toys or teen gifts (not gift-wrapped, please) no later than **MONDAY, DECEMBER 5th**. Popular items are: soccer balls, soccer nets, headphones, Transformer toys, art supplies, riding toys, dolls for older girls and car track sets. Donations can be delivered to our Donation Door at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, on weekdays between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Donors may wish to choose items from our Amazon

### Wishlist

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SR6OHG83OPM5?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SR6OHG83OPM5?ref_=wl_share)). These gifts will be delivered directly to ECHO and the donor's Amazon invoice can serve as a receipt for tax purposes. The wishlist may be accessed easily from a link at [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org). If you have questions, please contact the Holiday Shop Co-Chairs at [ECHOHOLIDAYSHOP@gmail.com](mailto:ECHOHOLIDAYSHOP@gmail.com).

### Safety and Security Volunteer Needed

In addition to some volunteer openings for people who would like to work with receiving or assessing donations on Monday or Tuesday mornings, ECHO needs a person who can insure that our safety policies and procedures are being implemented throughout all work shifts. This volunteer would also keep a database of key holders and track keys that are given out temporarily for certain occasions. This position is not tied to a specific day of the week, but would encompass availability at random times, coordinating with the Executive Director. For more information on this or any volunteer positions at ECHO, please [email Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org](mailto:email_Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org).

### Scouting for Food

The annual Boy Scout Food Drive is essential to ECHO's ability to combat hunger in our community! Please watch for information about food pickup in your neighborhood on Saturday, November 12. Hundreds of Scouts and their leaders will put forth an enormous effort to help people in need of food by picking up donations from local homes, delivering those donations to ECHO and sorting thousands of items by category. ECHO always needs a variety of non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items, but we publish the list of things that are in low supply on our homepage at [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org) every month.

### Needed Now

Donations to ECHO's Housewares Department have not returned to pre-Covid levels. Perhaps the lockdown gave donors the chance to reassess their belongings back in 2021, but ECHO's need is ongoing. ECHO's volunteers who manage household goods hope for King size and Queen size sheets, comforters and blankets, towels of any size, 2-3 quart saucepans, large fry pans, dishes, glassware and flatware. Also, with winter weather upon us, ECHO has a pressing need for men's and boys' coats, jeans and new underwear. All donations are gratefully accepted at ECHO's Donation Door, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, on weekdays between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00 as well as one Saturday morning a month (check [echo-inc.org](http://echo-inc.org) for the date each month). Receipts are cheerfully provided.

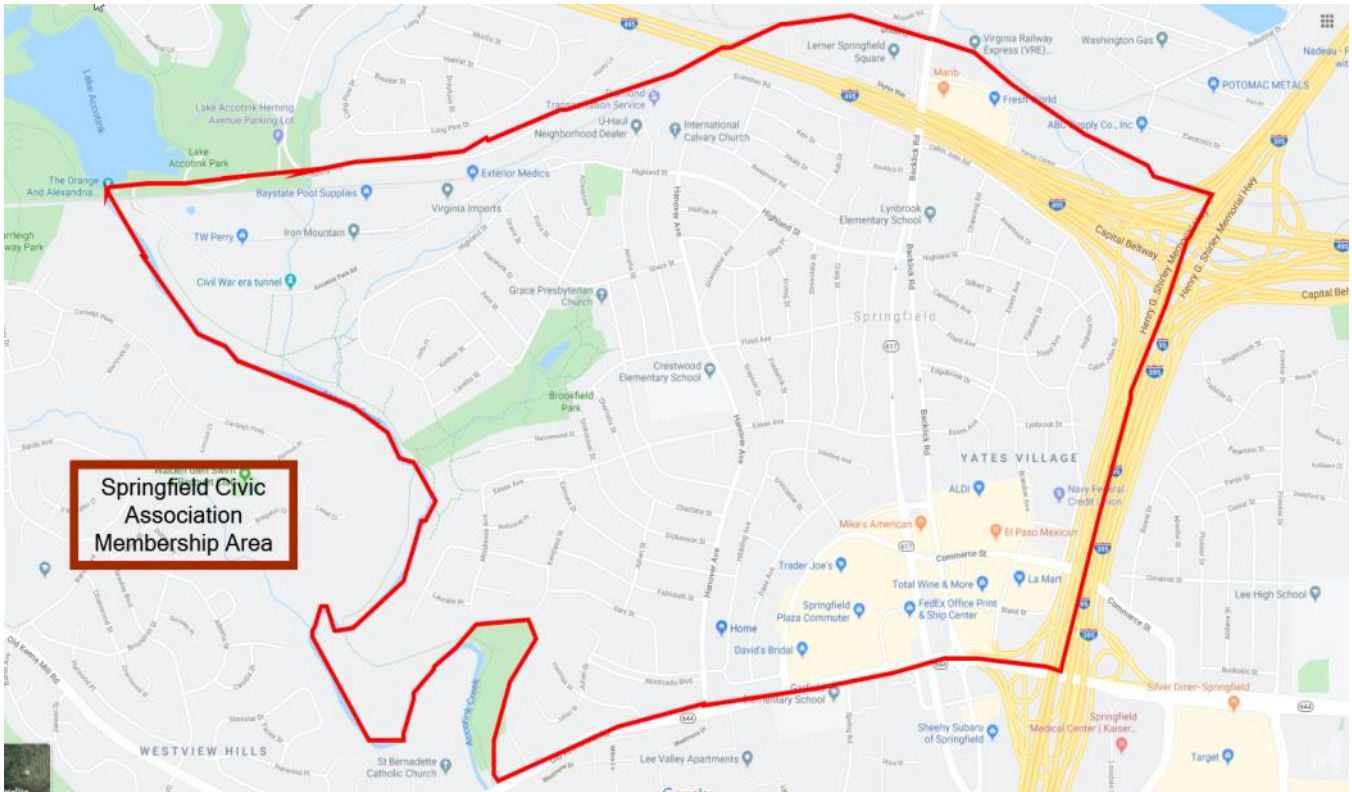
(continued on pg. 13)

# Echo (cont'd)

## Cakes to Benefit ECHO- How Sweet!

Nothing Bundt Cakes in Brookfield Plaza, Springfield, will donate 15% of sales on November 11 to ECHO. Shoppers who bring a non-perishable food donation for ECHO that day will receive a coupon for a free bundtlet on a future visit. The kind of products ECHO needs this month include instant potatoes (boxed), masa flour, honey, dried fruits, instant coffee, canned fish, canned meat, laundry detergent, deodorant, and crackers.

## SCA Membership Area



The Springfield Civic Association (SCA) is a non-partisan, non-sectarian, 501(c)4 non-profit volunteer organization established in 1953 to enhance the quality of life in Springfield by encouraging residents to be active in community affairs and by advocating for their interests and concerns through local government and other organizations. With the growth in the greater Springfield area since then, SCA now represents residents in the central part of Springfield that encompasses over 2,400 homes and 800 apartments. SCA's area is bounded by I-495 on the north (Beltway)/Railway, Old Keene Mill Road (SR 644) on the south, I-95 on the east, and Accotink Creek stream valley on the west.

Find out more about us and join the SCA at [springfieldcivic.org](http://springfieldcivic.org).

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## Grace Presbyterian Church

### Support our Community and Celebrate the Christmas Season with Grace Presbyterian!

Authors: Katie Murchison Ross, Associate Pastor and Crestwood Resident; Nicole Westphal, Congregational Care Elder and Crestwood Resident

Grace Presbyterian Church (7434 Bath Street) celebrated and welcomed the participation of many community members in our activities this fall!

On Saturday, October 15, the Children's Consignment sale raised needed funds for Grace Weekday Preschool, which serves many families in Crestwood and beyond. Later that afternoon, our annual Oktoberfest included the "volksmarch" (folk march) through Brookfield Park and a performance by the Mount Vernon Band.

On Saturday, October 29, more than 30 community volunteers gathered at Grace to build backpacks including a sack lunch, warm socks, and hygiene kits, for our homeless population in Washington, D.C. If you feel called to help others less fortunate, come to Grace Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Nov. 26 and Saturday Dec. 17 at 9:30 a.m. to join in the support!

If you'd like to join us again (or for the first time!) we hope you'll take advantage of some of our upcoming community, service, and seasonal events:

**80s/90s Band, Nov. 12 at 7-8:30 pm:** Local Springfield band the "Repeat Offenderz" will play 80s/90s covers for fun for all ages in Wester Hall.

**Grace Rising, Nov. 13 at 4-5:30 pm:** Our new community group for 4th-6th graders to grow in friendship, faith, and service, meets in Wester Hall.

**Alternative Gift Fair, Nov. 20 12-1pm:** The Alternative Gift Fair offers gifts to a diverse collection of organizations with established track records of helping people in need. You will receive gift cards that you can give to honor family and friends in the true spirit of Christmas. There will be an array of goods to purchase including Zuni peanuts from Southside Virginia, olive oil, tapenade and olive-oil soap from Palestine, mixes for soups and scones made by small farmers in third world countries.

**Youth Service Project, Dec. 4, 12-4pm:** Youth and friends (4th-12th grade) will enjoy lunch and then shop for and wrap holiday gifts for families at a local elementary school.

**Service of the Longest Night, Dec. 21 at 7pm:** A contemplative service in the sanctuary that makes space for the quiet, the longing, and the grief that accompanies the season

**Christmas Eve Campfire Service, Dec 24 at 5 pm:** All ages are welcome to this family-friendly Christmas Eve Service on our front lawn.

**Christmas Eve Traditional Service, Dec 24 at 8pm:** A traditional worship service with communion and candlelight in the sanctuary (and livestreamed on Facebook/YouTube).

**Christmas Day Cocoa and Carols, Dec 25 at 10:30 am:** Christmas is on a Sunday this year, so join us for a brief, cozy, informal service in Wester Hall.



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# American Flag Etiquette

Guidelines for Display of the Flag Public Law 94-344, known as the Federal Flag Code, contains rules for handling and displaying the U.S. flag. While the federal code contains no penalties for misusing the flag, states have their own flag codes and may impose penalties. The language of the federal code makes clear that the flag is a living symbol. In response to a Supreme Court decision which held that a state law prohibiting flag burning was unconstitutional, Congress enacted the Flag Protection Act in 1989. It provides that anyone who knowingly desecrates the flag may be fined and/or imprisoned for up to one year. However, this law was challenged by the Supreme Court in a 1990 decision that the Flag Protection Act violates the First Amendment free speech protections.

## Important Things to Remember

Traditional guidelines call for displaying the flag in public only from sunrise to sunset. However, the flag may be displayed at all times if it's illuminated during darkness. The flag should not be subject to weather damage, so it should not be displayed during rain, snow and wind storms unless it is an all-weather flag. It should be displayed often, but especially on national and state holidays and special occasions.

The flag may be flown at half-staff to honor a newly deceased federal or state government official by order of the president or the governor, respectively.

On Memorial Day, the flag should be displayed at half-staff until noon.

Out of respect for the U.S. flag, never:

- \* dip it for any person or thing, even though state flags, regimental colors and other flags may be dipped as a mark of honor.
- \* display it with the union down, except as a signal of distress.
- \* let the flag touch anything beneath it: ground, floor, water, merchandise. carry it horizontally, but always aloft.
- \* fasten or display it in a way that will permit it to be damaged or soiled. place anything on the flag, including letters, insignia, or designs of any kind.
- \* use it for holding anything.
- \* use it as wearing apparel, bedding or drapery. It should not be used on a costume or athletic uniform. However, a flag patch may be attached to the uniform of patriotic organizations, military personnel, police officers and firefighters.
- \* use the flag for advertising or promotion purposes or print it on paper napkins, boxes or anything else intended for temporary use and discard.

During the hoisting or lowering of the flag or when it passes in parade or review, Americans should stand at attention facing the flag and place their right hand over the heart. Uniformed military members render the military salute. Men not in uniform should remove any headdress and hold it with their right hand at their left shoulder, the hand resting over the heart. Those who are not U.S. citizens should stand at attention. When the flag is worn out or otherwise no longer a fitting emblem for display, it should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.



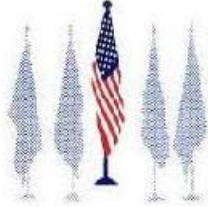



(Continued on pg. 17)

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## Flag Etiquette (cont'd)

<b>Display Requirements</b>	
	When carried in procession with other flags the U.S. flag should be either on the marching right (the flag's right) or to the front and center of the flag line.
	When displayed on a float in a parade, the flag should be hung from a staff or suspended so it falls free. It should not be draped over a vehicle. When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the U.S. flag should be on its own right (left to a person facing the wall) and its staff should be in front of the other flag's staff.
	In a group of flags displayed from staffs, the U.S. flag should be at the center and the highest point.
	When the U.S. flag is displayed other than from a staff, it should be displayed flat, or suspended so that its folds fall free. When displayed over a street, place the union so it faces north or east, depending upon the direction of the street.
	When the U.S. flag is displayed from as projecting from a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the unless the flag is at half-staff. When suspended from a rope extending from the building on a pole, the flag should be hoisted out, union first from the building.
	When flags of states, cities or organizations are flown on the same staff, the U.S. flag must be at the top (except during church services conducted at sea by Navy chaplains)
<b>The flag should be displayed on or near the main building of public institutions, schools during school days, and polling places on election days. It should be hoisted briskly and lowered ceremoniously.</b>	







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## *The Problem of Panhandling*

Panhandling can be found in most areas of our county, generating many questions and complaints from residents. While you may get a good feeling by providing money to a panhandler, the **reality is that panhandlers who are truly in need require more resources than small amounts of money.**

The good news is that the **county has many services and staff dedicated to help those in need**. But we need your help: **You are encouraged *not to give money to panhandlers*. Giving money to panhandlers encourages more panhandling.** Donations of cash will not help solve the underlying reasons why someone panhandles. Here are some important things to know about Fairfax County's approach to this issue:

### **What Are the Laws?**

- Asking for money is a **protected act under the First Amendment**.
- Asking for money in public areas, including roadway medians, is **not a violation of law**.

### **Who Are Panhandlers?**

- **Not all panhandlers are homeless**, but may be in need of food and other critical services.
- However, many of the **stories panhandlers use to solicit money are not true**.
- Some panhandlers **come from outside of the county** or even outside Virginia. Some panhandlers **operate as part of organized, professional panhandling rings**.

### **What Can You Do?**

- Refer panhandlers – or anyone you see who may be in need – to the county's social services programs. There are a **wide-range of services and housing resources**. **Provide them with this human services hotline phone number: 703-222-0880**. You can also make copies of [this handout](#) with **information on where and how to obtain critical services, including food and shelter**. Have a few copies in your car to give out when you come across a panhandler. Consider making a donation or volunteering for one of the [nonprofit community partners](#) dedicated to assisting our residents in need.

# Halloween Happenings

Many thanks to SCA Board member Mike Slater for spearheading the 2022 Halloween decorating contest. Mike gets a “howl” out of Halloween every year and it shows in his planning and judging of this contest. Also, many thanks to all neighbors who participated in this year’s “fright fest”! Your creativity is amazing!

Check out the pictures of the winning displays as well as some others who entered the contest. We’re looking forward to many “boo-tiful “ entries next year.



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## November Meeting

November 15, 2022

7:00pm Social

7:30pm Meeting

**Crestwood Elementary  
School**

**Topic:**  
**Springfield Market Study-**  
A Look at the Future  
Business Landscape of  
Springfield

**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 \$20 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
- Add me to the email list, I will join later (**email list is FREE**)

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