

January 2024

Volume 41, Issue 3

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Springfield Civic Association

President's Message—Gail Nittle



I hope your holidays were merry and bright and that the new year will be everything you need it to be!

There are some new store fronts in Central Springfield! Whole Foods and now Best Buns are two more reasons to enjoy living here! Our faithful advertiser and supporter Sandwich Republic is under new ownership but with the same delicious menu! The commuter garage is just about completed and ready to open! New "Welcome to Springfield" signs have been installed. Have you seen them?

To find out what's going on in Springfield, come to our January 16th meeting! Doug Loescher, Program Manager, Community Revitalization Section, Department of Planning & Development will be with us to provide a Revitalization Update (recent zoning cases and status of recent and upcoming development projects). A Planning Division Update (Comprehensive Plan study and Site-Specific Plan Amendment proposals) will be presented by Graham Owen and Katrina Newton. You won't want to miss this opportunity to learn, to ask questions and to share your concerns.

Inside this issue:

ECHO P. 3

Children's Consignment Sale P. 5

Shepherd Center P. 11

Lake Acotink Press Release P.12

Cookie Smiles P. 13-15



Thinking back over the holidays, a huge SCA thank you goes to all those who baked, assembled and delivered thirty boxes of delicious homemade cookies and bars to our supporters and advertisers as a way of thanking them! It's the 12th year the SCA has carried out this much-appreciated tradition!



Thanks also to all of you who made our neighborhood so merry and bright with lights and displays! The SCA left notes of appreciation to recognize the homes that were brought to our



attention. We're hoping for more next year! Contact the SCA at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com if you saw some homes/displays you would like to see recognized next year.

A final thank you goes to Gayle Parsons for donating 72 early-blooming daffodils which were planted on both sides of the Crestwood's Springfield sign by (l-r) Ryan and Ed Morrissey along with Charlie Lewis.

The SCA is ordering lawn signs to announce our meetings. If you would be willing to have a lawn sign at your home, please contact the SCA at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com



Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, January 16th!

~Gail

January Meeting
Tuesday
January 16, 2024
7:00pm—Social
7:30pm—Meeting
Crestwood Elementary School

Topic:
What's Going On In Springfield?

Doug Loescher
 Department of Planning & Development/ Revitalization

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Update

Winter Book Sale Success!!

You did it again...**thirty volunteers worked for a total of 465 hours** to pull together a wonderful and very organized book sale! Due to facility issues, we lost more than 10 hours of set up time and the entire preview sale day. Despite these challenges, the show went on and we raised \$7,712.10! (Surprisingly only \$612 less than Dec 22!) Thanks to all of your hard work, our loyal patrons, and the supportive library staff, the sale was a big success. We appreciate your attention to detail, cooperation, and cheerfulness during the setup, sale, and clean up. We always enjoy working with dedicated volunteers like you!

And if you are looking for a new volunteer activity, please consider joining the Friends for our next book sale!



Happy New Year!!

Upcoming events:

Coffee & Classic Movie, Feb 2, Mar 1, 10:30am

Coder Dojo, Jan 20, Feb 17, Mar 16, 1pm

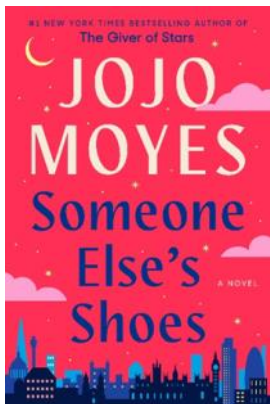
Legos, Jan 18, Feb 15, 4:30pm

Book Donations Welcome!

If you have an especially large volume, please let us know in advance (rbfriends@gmail.com) so we can meet you at the loading dock area in the back of the library. Otherwise leave your donations in the large box under the paper mâché penguin in the front foyer.

Review: *Someone Else's Shoes*

by Claudia Moore



Have you ever picked up someone else's purse or gym bag, even taking it home? When Sam (middle aged, tired, working mother) and Nisha (wealthy, middle aged snob) accidentally exchange gym bags the lives of at least six people will be changed forever. Prolific, popular British writer Jojo Moyes has a special talent for providing readers with hoots of laughter and sobs of sadness at the very same time as she depicts common occurrences in new ways. The complications involved in reuniting owner with gym bag take 400 pages, but Moyes has managed to highlight many hot topic issues in ways that will entertain and raise thoughts. These include: The effect fancy, well maintained clothes have on a person's demeanor. Snap judgements about a person because of his/her clothes could be a mistake. The effect of a parent's clinical depression on a family. The importance of friendship in people's lives. The roll of subservient women in dysfunctional marriages. The poverty of single-parent households trying to provide for families. Parenting a gender-questioning teenager. Summarizing this plot would take the full length of the novel, but many plot twists – some a surprise, some expected, some sad and some gleeful – delight the reader before the bags are reunited with their owners and all is right with the world. These twists enable the characters to mature and grow. Only once did the events seem to be of a slapstick nature. But even so, I'm looking forward to this being made into a movie and in the meantime, it is a great read!

Branches Accepting Credit/Debit Cards

The Friends' Daily Sale is open in its usual location behind the Checkout Desk. Same 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.

Richard Byrd Library hours:

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

Be sure to check the Richard Byrd Library website events calendar for regular updates: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/richard-byrd>

ECHO

We Are Making A Difference- With Your Help



Recently, Counselor Amy Ashley, of Saratoga Elementary asked for a special accommodation. She wanted to bring nearly 1000 pounds of food from the school food drive at a time when ECHO is normally closed. Some of our Food Volunteers agreed to open the building for her because ECHO's need for food is great, and the food from a food drive is a significant addition. When the volunteers thanked her, she said, "You feed my kids. Of course, we will support ECHO." It warmed our hearts to hear that our work to make sure all our neighbors have food is apparent to teachers and counselors who see the children whose families are in need. We want to say to our donors, "YOU feed OUR community's kids." Every can, every jar, every box of food donated, is your way of saying that hunger in our community is not acceptable. We at ECHO are grateful.

When It's Cold Outside!

ECHO maintains a large room full of donated clothing where clients may come in by appointment to choose outfits for their family members. Sometimes we do not have everything needed in the sizes required, but we never want anyone to leave without clothing to keep them warm. Coats, hats, scarves, and gloves are necessities. ECHO's Clothing Volunteers extend special thanks to these organizations that supported Winter Coat/Clothing Drives: Gifts for the Homeless (DC Legal Community), ATCS Engineering Consulting Services, Knights of Columbus, Girl Scout Troop 52152, Thomas Edison High School, Southport HOA.

ECHO's Current Needs

The list of ECHO's needs is always on our website at echo-inc.org. Our Clothing Room especially needs sneakers (new or used, in good condition) for boys, girls, men, and women. The Housewares Department currently needs towels, shower curtains, bathmats, comforters, and frying pans. The Food Pantry needs canned meats or fish, spaghetti sauce, instant coffee, bagged rice, sugar, children's toothbrushes, laundry detergent, and toilet paper. After the January 1 holiday, ECHO, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, will return to normal hours of operation: Monday - Friday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00.

If your New Year's resolution is to get more involved in your community, there are some important volunteer positions at ECHO that we'd like you to consider. In addition to a few vacancies working with donations in Housewares, Clothing, or Food, ECHO is searching for Grant Writers to support our efforts in securing funding to help our neighbors in need. Responsibilities include researching grant opportunities, writing compelling grant proposals to acquire funding, and working with our Finance Team to ensure we have sufficient funds for our operations. If you have experience as a Grant Writer or a similar role and would like to find out more, please email volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.



Holiday Joy!

ECHO's Holiday Shop was a huge success thanks to the many volunteer "elves" and donors! Because of the plentiful donations of toys and games, ECHO was able to provide gifts for approximately 550 children from 220 families. Donations came from religious congregations, civic organizations, businesses and many, many individuals. We want to thank Girl Scout

Troop 54120 for the donation of 307 candy bags to add more cheer for the children. Holiday Shop volunteers saw joy on the faces of parents receiving toys for their children and wish they could share that joy with all donors. ECHO offers many, many thanks to our generous community.



Through ECHO's Holiday Meals Program, our community provided 459 households with a festive meal in November or December. Thank you!

Prepare for Winter Weather

With the official start of winter less than a month away, now is an excellent time to prepare for the conditions the colder weather will bring. It's important to set aside the time to gather materials and plan for winter weather before it hits to avoid being caught off guard. Below is a list of resources and steps you can take to help you and your loved ones prepare for any winter weather conditions that may come your way.

- You can follow [Fairfax County Government](#), [Fairfax County's Office of Emergency Management](#), and [VDOT Northern Virginia](#) on X for safety and weather updates.
- You can sign up for Fairfax County Emergency Alerts [here](#).
- Follow the Fairfax County Emergency Blog [here](#).
- For questions about snow removal, shoveling, or other winter weather related questions, visit the County's snow webpage [here](#).
- In case a tree is down you can visit [here](#).

- If you're looking for ideas on what you should keep in your car during the winter months, check out [Winter Weather Travel Kit - Travel | Virginia Department of Transportation \(virginiadot.org\)](#)

Need Information?

Contact the SCA

Do you have a question for the SCA?

Contact us via email at

springfieldcivic@yahoo.com.

Check out our website at

www.springfieldcivic.org.

We're on Facebook ! Check us out at

Springfield Civic Association.

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 2023-2024 program year are due now.

Due to increased activities and expenses, dues for one year were 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, 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!

Upcoming SCA Membership Meetings:

- * **Tuesday January 16, 2024**
- * **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**
- * **Tuesday, May 21, 2024**



Children's Consignment Sale/Grace Weekday Preschool

The semi-annual Children's Consignment Sale is sponsored by Grace Weekday Preschool. Our sale will make it simple for you to sell your new and gently used children's and maternity items. Shopping for all types of infant & children's clothing, toys, furniture and maternity items at affordable prices couldn't be easier!

You do not have to be a consignor or a volunteer to shop the sale on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Get there early -- the doors will open from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday. Better yet, volunteer and you can come Friday! Be sure to check both the boys' and girls' sections even if you are looking for one gender, as many clothes are in unisex styles. Contact us at 703-451-3314 or preschool@gracepresby.org

All sales are final and there are no returns. All items are sold as-is.

Grace Weekday Preschool is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen items.

We will provide shopping bags for use during the sale. No outside shopping bags will be permitted.

NO Credit cards will be accepted. We will accept cash and in-state personal checks with a current in-state driver's license or valid military ID only.



Children's Consignment Sale

**Saturday,
March 9, 2024
8am—12pm**

**Grace Presbyterian Church
7434 Bath Street
Springfield, VA**

Come shop for gently used and like-new maternity and children's items at *GREAT* prices! We'll also have some baked goods to purchase on your way out! Please note that we are unable to accept \$100 bills.

Do you have children's and maternity items to sell? If you are interested in selling your items, call Grace Weekday Preschool at 703-451-3314 or email preschool@gracepresby.org for more information

Sponsored by Grace Weekday Preschool

Richard Byrd Library News

Greetings from Richard Byrd Library!

During this time of year, people are tempted to make New Year's resolutions. Many involve deprivation like losing weight or reducing debt that, while noble, can make us feel incredibly guilty if we aren't able to sustain the changes. Consider one that adds to your life instead by visiting your friends at Richard Byrd Library.

Winter Reading Adventure

Participate in our winter reading program (bit.ly/FCPL_WRA) and enjoy a great book. From December 1 through January 31, readers of all ages can participate in the program by reading or listening to books or by completing activities. Once you've met the reading goals for your age group, visit us at the library to receive a prize, including coupons from Bruster's Real Ice Cream, Scrawl Books, Wendy's, Mount Vernon and other generous sponsors.



Early finishers of the 2023/2024 Winter Reading Program

Tiny Canvases Painting Program

Baby Harp by Delaney F.

Foster your inner artist and take part in the tiny canvases program. Starting January 13, school-age youth, teens and adults can pick up a kit of painting materials while supplies last to create a masterpiece. Once you're done, snap a photo and upload it to our online art gallery by February 29. Artists who submit their photos will be entered into a raffle to win a sketchbook and colored pencil set. If you'd like inspiration, please visit the online [Tiny Canvases Art Gallery](http://bit.ly/TinyCanvases) (bit.ly/TinyCanvases) featuring submissions from past years. Paint at home or join us on February 17 at 4:30 pm for a [Painting Party](#).



Baby Harp by Delaney F.

Library Events



Lunar New Year lion dance performance.

Overall, have fun! Do you enjoy cooking? Borrow one of our wide selection of cookbooks or take a class like Spanish Cooking 101, available for free on demand through Universal Class (bit.ly/FCPL_UniversalClass).

Enjoy movies? Join us on the First Friday of the month at 10:30am for the [Coffee and a Classic](#) program or stream one at home using Kanopy (bit.ly/FCPL_Kanopy). Want to enjoy something special with the whole family? To celebrate the Lunar New Year, Richard Byrd Library is thrilled to host a lion dance performance by the Jow Ga Shaolin Institute on Saturday, February 3 at 1pm. (bit.ly/RB_LionDance).

For information on these and other Richard Byrd Library programs, visit bit.ly/RB_Programs.

We hope to see you soon!

Lake Accotink News

Now that the holidays are over, it is time to start thinking about Spring and Summer camp programs located at Lake Accotink Park and Crestwood Elementary School (supervised by Lake Accotink Park staff). A full listing of summer camps will be available on the FCPA website starting January 10th and registration opens on January 23rd.

Camps at Lake Accotink Park include Lakeside Nature Explorer Camp, for kids 6-10 years old and Accotink Adventure Camp for those aged 9-13. Both camps are based outside, and each provides age-appropriate outdoor and nature themed activities every day. Camps start on June 17th and the last day is August 16th. There will also be a week of Lakeside Nature Explorers during spring break, March 25th–29th.

Camps at Crestwood Elementary School are very diverse and have offerings that cover sports to cooking to Legos to music and computer coding/programing camps for school aged children. Camps at this location run for five weeks starting in June. The staff at Lake Accotink Park hopes you all had a wonderful holiday break.



The Woman's Club of Springfield

It has been a good year, and a busy year for the Woman's Club of Springfield.

The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop in the Concord Center is welcoming Best Buns, a new neighbor, and we are happy to say we are also welcoming new consigners.

What we are looking for are new customers shopping for our well priced good quality merchandise for women, men, and households. Come see us - you will have fun, and maybe find a bargain. All of our profits go right into the community

So far this year we have been able to support the Garfield Emergency clothing program, deliver layettes to Fairfax hospital, volunteer at a food bank, support Richard Byrd library, and enjoy ourselves with a travelling luncheon.

We are looking forward to the new year, and wishing all our friends and neighbors a happy, healthy, successful 2024.




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Faith First, Family Second, Career Third




Sina Malekuti, D.D.S.

Serving kids and adult Dental needs at:

6120 Brandon Ave., Suite 303
Springfield, VA 22150
(703) 451-3211

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)



Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) Monthly Announcements January 2024

ACTIVITIES:

FLAP MONTHLY 2023 LAKE ACCOTINK PARK CLEAN-UP (2nd Sunday of every month)

WHEN: January 14
TIME: 9:00am-12:00pm
LOCATION: Lake Accotink Marina (at the sign-in tent)
 Pick up gloves, FLAP information, clean-up bags, tools, maps, and more. You will be loaned a FLAP safety vest. Volunteer 4 times and receive your very OWN safety vest to personalize.
ACTIVITIES: Pick-up trash bags and find debris carelessly dumped, dropped, or forgotten. Refill dog waste bag stations if they are empty or near-empty. Clip vines and more.
REGISTER: https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization_details/71653
Questions? contact@flapaccotink.org

CARING FOR THE POLLINATOR GARDEN (2nd Sunday of every month)

WHEN: January 14
TIME: 10:30am - 12:00pm
WHERE: Lake Accotink Park, Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden - (next to the sign-in tent / near the restrooms)
ACTIVITIES: Work alongside our experts as they care for the pollinator plants, watering, and clean-up. We provide tools and gloves or you can bring your own.
REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-602959567297>

EXPLORING THE POLLINATOR GARDEN (2nd Sunday of every month)

WHEN: January 14
TIME: 10:30am - 12:00pm
WHERE: Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden - (next to the sign-up tent / near the restrooms).
ACTIVITIES: Our experts will guide you through the Pollinators and Pollinator Plants, Starting and maintaining your own (any size) Pollinator Garden.
REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-602955284487>



FLAP (con't)



2024 FLAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

LOCATION: (Ravensworth Farm): Community of Christ Church, 5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield
WHEN: Wednesday, March 27
TIME: 6:30-7:30pm

2024 FLAP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

LOCATION: Lake Accotink Park Large Pavillion
WHEN: Wednesday, May 22 and Wednesday August 28
TIME: 6:30-7:30pm



Please Support Our Advertisers!

Sandwich Republic, Grace Presbyterian Church, LA Mart, Malek's Pizza Palace, Springfield Swim Club, Springfield Laundromat & Cleaners, Janet Buckley Realtor, Dr. Sina Malekuti, Springfield Butcher, Eddie Greenan Jewelers, Debbie Dogrul Realtor, Kaitlyn Morrissey Mary Kay, Virginia Tire and Auto, Interstate Movers, Dr. Dulac, I Book Travel, Potomac River Running & Walk, and Restoration 1.

Grace Presbyterian Church Update

Hunker Down this Winter with Grace Presbyterian Church

Author: Nicole Westphal, Congregational Care Elder, and Crestwood Resident

With winter upon us, it could be a nice time to connect with others from the comfort of your own home, or by a short trip within the neighborhood! We have a wide variety of activities planned this season at Grace Presbyterian Church (7434 Bath St.) that all are welcome to attend and enjoy!

These are just some of the activities planned this winter Please feel free to stop by at any of our many upcoming activities. It's on our sign and we mean it: "We choose welcome!"

Serve the community with a backpack of needed supplies

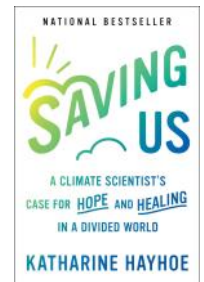
Each month, the local "Help the Homeless" group meets at Grace and includes many members of the local Springfield community. The emphasis is on serving those in need and having a good time while doing so! Every last Saturday of the month, the group sets up an assembly-line style process to quickly (and with a lot of fun!) put together backpacks containing a hygiene kit, paper towels, plastic container, mouthwash, bag lunch, and a Bible. These backpacks are taken to DC and parts of Fairfax County to distribute directly to the homeless. Help the Homeless is scheduled for January 27, February 24, and March 23 at 9:30 am.

Make a difference in the lives of our young neighbors

Every Monday night, Grace also hosts a tutoring program for local students, which for decades has connected students needing assistance with their schoolwork with (screened) adults from the community wanting to help an opportunity to make a difference in a young life! For more information about requesting tutoring or to volunteer, please contact the Grace church office at manager@gracepresby.org

Climate Change: Putting Hope into Action, is a new midweek book study that you can join from the comfort of your home!

Climate change isn't all about the science, the economics, the politics and polarization. At the heart of the crisis, it's also about relationships – with each other and with our world. Using Katherine Hayhoe's book *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, Grace Presbyterian Church will lead an online study for the Springfield community that explores not only the hope for this world's future, but our call to put that hope into action. The discussions will be **on Zoom** on Tuesday evenings (7:00-8:30 pm) from January 23 through February 27. Contact the Grace church office at manager@gracepresby.org for the Zoom information.



Service and fellowship, every Sunday, 10:30 am

Every Sunday, Grace serves hot coffee and food after service. Feel free to stop by and meet your neighbors!

Coming in March!

Keep your eye out for signs announcing the Spring Grace Preschool Consignment Sale on March 9, 8:00 am-12:00 pm, and news about our Easter Eggstravaganza on March 29!



Christmas Event



Christmas Event

Springfield Acres Garden Club

The Springfield Acres Garden Club invites you to its January 23, 2024 meeting at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 8304 Old Keene Mill Rd, Springfield, VA 22152. The meeting begins at 10:00am.

Program: Backyard Eco-Gardens

By mimicking nature, we can create beautiful, productive gardens and lower maintenance, time, labor and money.

Presenter: Drew Asbury is “Hillwood’s horticulturist and volunteer manager.

He joined Hillwood in 2012 and is responsible for the greenhouses, the cutting garden, and the horticulture volunteer program. Drew has worked professionally in the horticulture industry for nearly twenty years in a variety of positions including garden center sales, greenhouse growing, and landscape management and design. Drew graduated from the Longwood Gardens professional gardener training program in 2006 and is currently working on his Master’s degree in landscape design from George Washington University.” (from HillwoodMuseum.org)



Shepherd Center of Annandale Springfield (SCAS)



We work with caring volunteer drivers who provide rides for seniors to medical and dental offices, grocery stores, banks, food banks, and a host of other locations. We do not charge for this service.

We are interested in finding volunteers to aid the Shepherd Center of Annandale Springfield’s mission, especially drivers. Your support would not only be greatly appreciated; but would be essential in providing transportation for the growing number of senior citizens in our community who need rides to medical facilities, food banks, and grocery stores. In 2023, we provided over 500 rides to assist our seniors.

Thank you for your consideration in assisting the Shepherd’s Center.

Shepherd Center of Annandale Springfield (SCAS)

The SCAS is a volunteer organization that helps provide opportunities for Seniors to be creative and productive through their later years. Do you have a few hours a month you can spare to the SCAS as a volunteer? We are looking for people to help with:

Drivers / Transportation Services – help transport local area seniors from their home to medical appointments.

Lunch N’ Life committee—help to plan and facilitate fun events.

Board Members—help guide SCAS.

Outreach - Liaison with churches and businesses.

Fundraiser/grant writer– help raise funds.

Office Manager – general office duties – Part time paid position. For further details refer to [Volunteer – SCAS \(shepherdscenter-annandale.org\)](https://www.shepherdscenter-annandale.org)

Please refer to our website www.shepherdscenter-annandale.org for additional details on how you can help or call 703-941-1419 to volunteer.

Sincerely,
Barbara Gatorian
SCAS Board Chair

Save Lake Accotink Press Release

Lake Accotink Needs Your Urgent Action/Local Community Takes a Stand to Save Lake Accotink

Introduction: *Concerned citizens of Fairfax County rally together to address a critical concern – the future of Lake Accotink. As stewards of our shared natural heritage, we unite to advocate for immediate action to safeguard the lake and its surrounding ecosystem.*

Key Message: *Lake Accotink Preservation Initiative Urges Swift and Decisive Action*

Springfield, VA – 12/15/2023 – The destiny of Lake Accotink rests not only with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors but with each concerned citizen. Save Lake Accotink implores you to join the movement and drive swift action.

Lake Accotink's fate hangs in the balance without a concrete plan for preservation. While the Lake Accotink Task Force diligently completed its findings by presenting the report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the Board, in turn, referred the report to the County's Environmental Committee.

[Save Lake Accotink](#) urgently calls upon the BOS to allocate funding for a scalable dredging project immediately. This is to safeguard, at the very least, the current footprint and enhance the sediment trapping capacity while a comprehensive long-term plan is developed.

Act Now – Time is of the Essence!

Former Braddock District Supervisor and Task Force member John Cook, speaking for the majority of the Task Force, delivered a compelling message to the BOS on December 12, stressing the need for immediate action: "You need to make a decision now...because time is not on our side. Preserving [the Lake] is an absolute essential."

The Task Force's report carefully examines issues raised by County staff – their reasons behind the No Dredge recommendation – revealing flaws in earlier studies, including unreliable data, incorrect cost estimates, and erroneous assumptions about dewatering and transportation options. Importantly, the report highlights that the cost of dredging could be up to 70% less than originally estimated and that the dredging maintenance cycle could be extended beyond five years, thus reducing the long-term costs.

Understanding the Value of Lake Accotink

The report offers a comprehensive understanding of the Lake's value – a critical ingredient that County staff overlooked when recommending abandoning the dredge earlier this year – incorporating socioeconomic, recreational, and environmental factors. Contrary to earlier endorsements, it emphasized Lake Accotink's unique access to open water, particularly to underserved communities, families, individuals, and those with mobility impairments – a key alignment with the [One Fairfax Policy](#).

The report was not intended to provide a compulsory path forward, rather, Task Force findings serve as a guide to areas needing critical study and avoiding past failures. The Board of Supervisors and the Environmental Committee must now act swiftly and decisively. Taking urgent action is crucial to prevent the degradation of this irreplaceable County Resource.

Protect Lake Accotink – Act Now!

Lake Accotink faces an imminent risk of further neglect, leading to increased siltation and transforming into an unmanageable wetland. This is not a fate we can accept. Don't be fooled; Lake Accotink's scale and watershed characteristics cannot be converted to another Huntley Meadows, despite what some may try to convince the community. We must act now to protect the Lake for future generations.

The fight to keep the Lake in Lake Accotink Park is ongoing! We implore you to act by contacting Chairman McKay and each District Supervisor. Let them know why Lake Accotink matters to you. Please give them a sense of urgency and take immediate measures. Find sample letters and contact information for the BOS on [SaveLakeAccotink.org](#).

For detailed insights into the Task Force Findings Report, visit the Fairfax County website at [Lake Accotink Task Force](#).

Your voice matters. Act now to Save Lake Accotink!

For More Information: Allan Robertson at info@savelakeaccotink.org

Delivering Christmas Cookies Smiles



Susann and Lisa/ Cookie Box Assemblers



Richard Byrd Library



Greater Springfield Fire Department



SCA recognizes our advertisers and supporters with cookies at Christmas time. This year was no exception. Thanks to all who made cookies, assembled cookie boxes, and delivered the cookies! Our advertisers and supporters are always happy to see us walk through the doors!



Virginia Tire and Auto



Franconia District Police Station



Franconia Supervisor Lusk's Office



Lake Accotink Park Office



Lynbrook Elementary School

Christmas Cookie Smiles (cont'd)



I Book Travel for You/ Carol Barron



Dr. Malekuti/ Dentist



Eddie Greenan/ Jeweler



Dr. Dulac/ Dentist



LA Mart



Malek's Pizza Palace



Potomac River Running



Restoration 1

Christmas Cookie Smiles (cont'd)



Interstate Van Lines



Delegate Vivian Watts



Grace Presbyterian Church



Kaitlyn Morrissey/Mary Kay Cosmetics



Braddock Supervisor Walkinshaw's Office



Former BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova



Crestwood Elementary School



Springfield Butcher



Debbie Dogrul/ Realtor



Christmas Cookie Smiles (cont'd)



BOS Chairman Jeff McKay's Office



Jason Planakis/ Community Volunteer



Kurt Doehnert/ Community Volunteer

5 Tips to Make Your New Year's Resolutions Stick

Whatever your goal is – the important thing is that you are on the right path to achieve it. Read through these tips to help you stick to your New Year resolutions and maximize your chances of not giving up.

1. Start with small goals

You may be feeling motivated and excited about your goal, but don't let your ambition lead you to unattainable levels. If you want to try a new activity, don't commit yourself to 5 times a week – start slowly and consistently so that your body gets used to it, and build from there. Giving yourself the ability to meet your goal in small steps can help you avoid discouragement along the way.

2. Make it measurable

For your goal to be attainable, it's important that you make it specific and measurable. For example, if you want to exercise more, set the amount of time you want this to be: 30 minutes a day, 4 times a week; or if you want to lose weight, make sure you know exactly what healthy weight figure you want to achieve. By assigning a measurement, you are specifying what goal success looks like.

To help you keep track of your progress, you can use an activity tracker where you can log your food intake and exercise.

3. Be realistic

Set your goals according to your lifestyle and with what you will be able to achieve, otherwise you might lose your motivation. Be honest to yourself and be sure to consider the resources and time you have available to help you meet your goals.

4. Make a plan

So you know what you want to accomplish, but make sure you also determine the when, where, and why of your vision – that way you can establish an action plan and set yourself on the right path to achieve your goal.

5. Stay positive

It can be difficult to make changes in your life, but focusing on the negative side will only discourage you. Try not to think about how tired you will feel after a session at the gym, or how much stress it may cause you if you stop smoking – believe in your goal and try to constantly remind yourself of the benefits and the impact it will have on your life. Focusing on the positives will help you stick to your resolution and make it happen.



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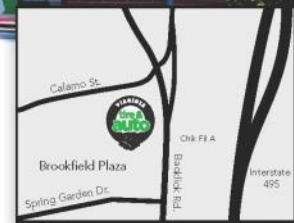
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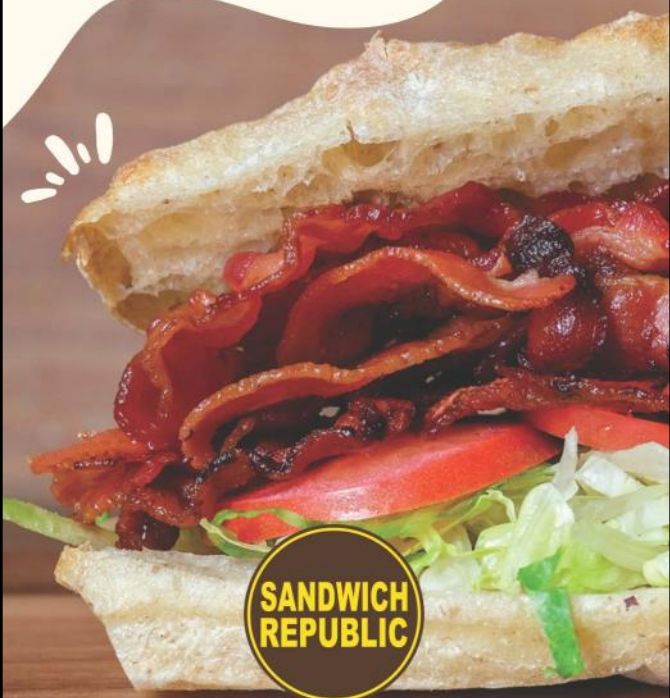
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Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.



He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.



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 7:30pm Meeting

Crestwood Elementary School

Topic:

What's Going On In Springfield?

Doug Loescher
 Department of Planning & Development/ Revitalization



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 Where we all come together

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- Promoting civic responsibility through education and advocacy
- Effectively interacting with local government and community organizations
- Enhancing the quality of life in Springfield.

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