

Springfield Reporter

May 2024

Volume 41, Issue 5

SCA Board of Directors

Gail Nittle, President

Cassie Planakis, 1st Vice President

Marta Morrissey, 2nd Vice President

Peggy Woods-Clark, Secretary

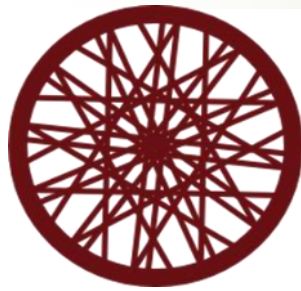
Sandra Frieswyk, Treasurer

Eric Jones, Director at Large

David Mwongela, Director at Large

Inside this issue:

Early Voting	P. 2
Real ID Deadline	P. 4
La Liquita de Lewis	P. 5
Tax Increase	P. 9
Important Phone Numbers	P. 10



Springfield Civic Association

President's Message—Gail Nittle



Greetings! Please join us for our SCA Membership meeting on 21 May.

Sylvia Washington, who has served in the U.S. Postal Service for 50 years (currently at the Brookfield Plaza post office) will be at our May meeting to tell you how to obtain a U. S. Passport. She plans to bring passport forms to the meeting.

We will be voting to confirm our slate of officers for 2024-25:

Gail Nittle (President), Cassie Planakis (1 VP), Marta Morrissey (2nd VP), Sandy Frieswyk (Treasurer), Peggy Woods-Clark (Secretary), Eric Jones (Director-at-Large) and David Mwongela (Director-at-Large).

The featured speaker will be Major Kevin Shaw, Station Commander of the Franconia District. Major Shaw will be joined by Captain Bull who will present on FLOCK cameras and officers from the Auto Theft Enforcement (ACE) team. Susannah Wood of the DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) will also present on Fentanyl – something we all need to know about.



The redevelopment of the current Franconia Governmental Center (once the new Franconia Government Center is completed and the police and Supervisor's office are relocated there) is still under consideration. Three community meetings have been held recently. The County is proposing to turn the taxpayer owned property over to the Housing Authority which could then have a developer build multi-family housing. Communities neighboring the site are proposing other options which they believe would better serve county residents such as the expansion of the Volunteer Fire Station, a Senior Center or Youth Center, or a new home for the Koinonia Foundation. The Koinonia Foundation is a faith-based, non-profit organization, called to support adults and children in the Franconia/Kingstowne area by helping to meet the challenges of daily living by providing food, clothing, learning and emergency financial assistance to qualified clients regardless of beliefs. Please weigh in with Supervisor Lusk's office on what **YOU** would/wouldn't like to see there. Write or email: Franconia@fairfaxcounty.gov

Businesses are coming to Springfield! Paris Baguette is slated to open on Bland Street later this fall. Bob's Discount Furniture will be filling the space formerly occupied by Bed, Bath & Beyond. Signs are promising for Stupid Good BBQ to locate in the Concord Center. With all the excitement about new business ventures, please take note of the thousands of housing units being proposed for our already congested area and the accompanying impact on our community and its infrastructure. Hundreds of units have been proposed for the area at the intersection of Old Keene Mill and Backlick Road (formerly the site of Merv's). Please let Supervisor Lusk know your opinion at Franconia@fairfaxcounty.gov

The Franconia Land Use Committee meetings are open to the public. Only designated representatives may vote but you are welcome to listen in, comment when invited and be informed. The SCA is represented at these meetings. If you have any questions, please send them to the SCA at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com



Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, May 21st!

~Gail

May Meeting
Tuesday
May 21, 2024
7:00pm—Social
7:30pm—Meeting
Crestwood Elementary
School

Program:
Franconia District Police
DEA
Passports

Early Voting

What You Need to Know:

- Any registered Fairfax County voter may vote early at any Fairfax County early voting location. You will be asked for an [acceptable ID](#) or sign an ID Confirmation Statement
 - In-person early voting is available for the **June 18, 2024, Democratic and Republican Primaries from May 3 to June 15** according to the schedule below
 - Absentee by mail voters may vote early in person if they choose
 - If you received a ballot in the mail, you must bring it with you and surrender it to vote in person. If you received a ballot but do not bring it with you, you may vote a provisional ballot
 - Curbside voting is available for [eligible voters](#)
 - Absentee ballot drop boxes are available during satellite operating hours
- Email earlyvoting@fairfaxcounty.gov with questions about early voting

LOCATION

Fairfax County Government Center
 12000 Government Center Pkwy.
 Fairfax, VA 22035
 Conference Rooms 2/3

Mt. Vernon Governmental Center
 2511 Parkers Lane
 Alexandria, VA 22300

North County Governmental Center
 1801 Cameron Glen Drive
 Reston VA 20190

Franconia Governmental Center
 6121 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, VA 22310

West Springfield Governmental Ctr.
 6140 Rolling Rd., Springfield, VA 22152

Burke Center Library
 5935 Freds Oak Rd., Burke, VA 22015

HOURS OF OPERATION

May 3-June 15
Weekdays: 8am—4:30pm.
Saturdays: (June 8 and June 15) 9am.—5pm.
Closed May 27 (Memorial Day)

May 3-June 15
Weekdays: 1pm.—7pm.
Saturdays: (June 8 and June 15) 9am.—5pm.
Closed May 27 (Memorial Day)

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Weekdays: 1pm.—7pm.
Saturdays: (June 8 and June 15) 9am.—5pm.
Closed May 27 (Memorial Day)

Hours of Operation/ June 8-June 15
Weekdays: 1pm.—7pm./ Saturdays: 1pm.— 5pm.




MARY KAY

Kaitlyn Morrissey
 Independent Beauty Consultant

6903 Highland St.
 Springfield, VA 22150
 703-899-5478

k.morrissey2007@gmail.com
 www.marykay.com/KMorrissey

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

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 27th, 2024

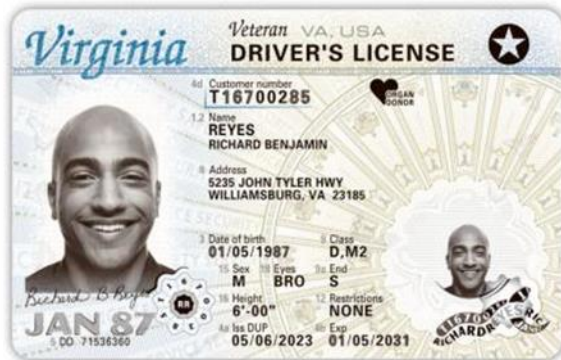
**REMEMBERING
OUR HEROES ON**

*Memorial
Day*



Real ID—News from the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA)

Virginia residents will need a REAL ID to board an airplane starting in May 2025



Do you have a star on your Virginia driver's license? If not, there's still time to get your REAL ID-compliant driver's license with that star on it. But it's better to get it sooner, rather than later.

Virginia residents who want to board an airplane for a domestic flight will soon need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license. If their driver's license is not [REAL ID](#)-compliant, they will need another form of [approved identification](#), such as a passport, to board their flight or enter a secure federal facility or military base. The REAL ID driver's license and identification card have a small star in the upper right corner to indicate they meet federal regulations that establish minimum security standards.

REAL ID goes into effect in about one year, starting May 7, 2025, and the countdown is on!

"REAL ID is a coordinated effort by the federal government to improve the reliability and accuracy of driver licenses and identification cards," says Robin "Chuck" Burke, TSA's Federal Security Director for Richmond International Airport. "The improvements are intended to inhibit terrorists' ability to evade detection by using fraudulent identification."

Virginia residents have the option to upgrade to a REAL ID if their license does not currently have the star or stick with an older standard driver's license. However, a standard credential—without the star—will not be valid to board a domestic flight or to access secure federal facilities, including military bases and some federal offices.

To get the REAL ID star, individuals will need to visit their local Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles office in person and bring certain documents to prove U.S. citizenship and Virginia residency. Required documents include one proof of identity (passport or U.S. birth certificate), proof of legal presence for non-U.S. citizens, two proofs of Virginia residency, your social security card (if you've been issued one) and a current driver's license if you are applying to exchange one issued by another U.S. state.

Transportation Security Administration officers who staff the ticket document checking station at airports will not allow travelers into the checkpoint without a REAL ID-compliant license [or another form of acceptable ID](#) after May 7, 2025, because of a federal law (The REAL ID Act of 2005) that mandates that a REAL ID is needed for federal purposes.

Travelers will start to notice new signs at airports nationwide to remind people that REAL ID-compliant licenses or other acceptable forms of ID, such as a valid passport, federal government PIV card or U.S. military ID, will be mandatory for air travel beginning on May 7, 2025, Burke explained. "Critically important, on May 7, 2025, individuals who are unable to verify their identity may not be permitted to enter the TSA checkpoint and will not be allowed to fly," he said.

For more information and details about how to obtain a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card in Virginia, visit [Virginia's Department of Motor Vehicles](#) web site.

Woman's Club of Springfield

THE PINK ELEPHANT THRIFT STORE IS CLOSING BY JUNE 30

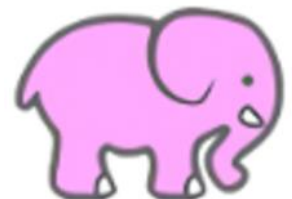
Sadly, The Pink Elephant Thrift Store has lost its lease. Great American Restaurants is opening a barbecue and a seafood restaurant in the space.

We can accept no consignments, and we will stop accepting donations on May 18. All regular merchandise will then be marked half price. Pink Elephant property will be sold after June 1.

On June 15 we will have a goodbye open house with cookies and drinks.

The Pink Elephant wishes to thank all the volunteers and consigners who have worked together to make The Pink Elephant Thrift Store such a success for 60 years.

The Woman's Club of Springfield was founded 70 years ago and, even though the Pink Elephant Thrift Store is closing, we will continue our mission of supporting the community.



La Liguita de Lewis—Lewis High School Student-Led Soccer Program

It all started in the spring of 2023. The weather was decent, and the students in Mr Nico Woods’ French class felt springish. During an “advisory period” (that’s a study hall for those of us from a certain era), Mr. Nico, a long-time soccer enthusiast, and his students, also soccer fans, were ahead of their work and decided to head outside for a bit of fun.

La Liguita de Lewis was born.

Mr. Nico and his students established La Liguita de Lewis to provide a structured and cost-effective opportunity for Lewis students to form an intramural soccer program. Team sports help students to improve self-confidence, personal willpower, and motivation to succeed. They create strong relationships with peers and an understanding of respect and fair play, both inside and outside of the game.

At Lewis, many students cannot participate in team sports due to limited space on teams, time, or the cost-restrictive environments that may exist in the club programs. Offering students a chance to build a lifelong hobby and to get physical exercise during the school day provides another reason to be excited about coming to school.

And that is where La Liguita comes in.

La Liguita de Lewis is a fully student-led program that takes place during the advisory period every other day. The participating students take on various roles, including players, managers, referees, photographers, statisticians, finance team, social media and photographers, team captains, website crew, and league commissioners. A dedicated group of ten students forms the league management, ensuring the smooth operation of the program. Anyone with a desire to play is welcome.



Student Referee Team



Student Program Leadership Team

But – wait! Are all of these students skipping study hall? What about their schoolwork? Students who have missed work, need to see teachers, bring up a grade, or otherwise make sure that their schoolwork is a priority cannot participate when their grades indicate that their advisory period would be best spent meeting with a teacher or getting some remedial assistance. This policy motivated most students to take the time to prepare for classes and tests so that their soccer teams wouldn’t be left without a player.

League President Andres Roca started his soccer career when he was attending Lynbrook Elementary School. He explained that the most challenging part of his experience has been building the organization from the ground up, as he and his team determine how to balance all of the tasks of running a team. The effort has been a very rewarding experience for him, as he has witnessed students from many different places with varied cultures and interests come together to enjoy soccer and camaraderie. Luis Guzman, the league Vice President, told me that he is especially proud to see how far the program has developed as a completely student-run program. He learned to be patient with the growth process and not to let the tough times overcome his positive attitude.



T-shirt day: AP Johnson, Andres, Mr. Nico, Molka, Michele, Rich

Next school year, the students (all juniors) plan to work to build capacity with their younger classmates so that they can leave the keys to the program and see it continue. Ms. Tomas will assume the role of league advisor as Mr. Nico moves abroad. Bonus: the program has already been replicated at West Potomac High School.

(Article written by Michele Duell)

Friends of Richard Byrd Library

Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Update

Richard Byrd Library hours:

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

Check the website events calendar for in-person programs: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/richard-byrd>

With the “unofficial” start of summer comes the Next Used Book Sale!!



Find your new summer favorite reads or a grad or dad gift at our next book sale:

Preview Sale: Wednesday, May 29th, 2 – 5pm,
\$10 admission fee.

Open to all: Thursday, May 30th, 10am – 6pm

Friday, May 31st 10am – 6pm

Saturday, June 1st, 10am – 6pm

Sunday, June 2nd, 12 – 2pm, Bag Sale (\$5/bag)

We're always looking for volunteers to help before, during and after the sale; send an email to RBFriends@gmail.com to get on our distribution list.

Daily Sale Always Available!

Can't wait until the next big sale?...the Friends' Daily Sale is always available behind the Checkout Desk. Bargain prices and great variety! Stop by to find your next great read! And check the featured items on the little red cart for special seasonal offerings. As always pay for your selections at the kiosk using a credit/debit card.

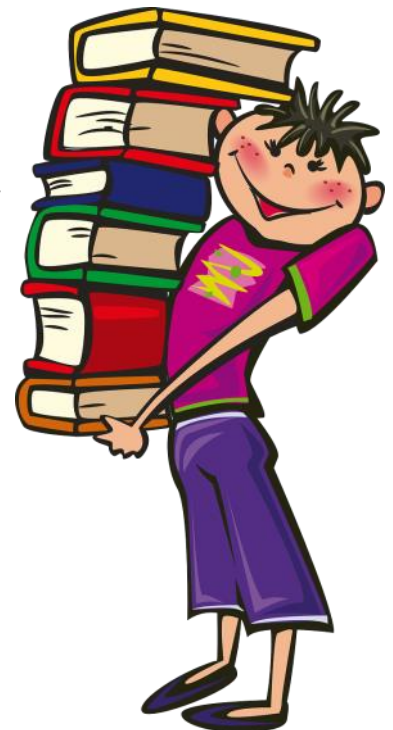
Coffee and a Classic Movie

Join us at the library on the first Friday of every month at 10:30 AM to have coffee and watch a classic movie. Due to copyright restrictions, we can't publish the title outside the library but look for the flyer next time you come by!

Follow Us on Social Media Outlets

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

Your engagement helps us reach an even broader audience!



Richard Byrd Library News

Greetings from Richard Byrd Library!

As the weather warms up, be sure to stop by Richard Byrd Library for some cool air conditioning, your next beach read, a puzzle or board game for an upcoming family vacation, and some of the following activities!

Summer Reading Adventure



The Summer Reading Adventure begins on June 12!

Our [Summer Reading Adventure](#) will be starting on June 12. Beginning June 5, you can visit fairfaxcounty.beanstack.org and register for this popular reading program. Readers of all ages can earn virtual badges by reading or listening to books, completing activities, or a combination of each. Once you've met the goal for your age or grade, visit Richard Byrd Library to receive your prize and add your name to our finishers wall. For more information, please visit bit.ly/FCPL-SRA.

As part of the Summer Reading Adventure, we have some wonderful programs for the whole family to enjoy. First, there will be free Summer Reading Festivals at the Woodrow Wilson Library on Saturday, June 15, 10am-1pm and Chantilly Regional Library on Sunday, August 18, 12-3pm. The festivals will include games and crafts, face painting, a mini zoo, a caricature artist, food trucks and more! In addition, Richard Byrd Library will be hosting the following programs:

- June 22 at 11am, STEM Adventure with the Science Guys
- July 18 at 1:30, Jonathan Austin's Magical Adventure
- July 23 at 3pm, Artsplash!
- July 31 at 10:30am, Back Pack Puppets with Joe Pipik
- August 10 at 3pm, Rocknoceros: Adventures in Music
- August 14 at 3pm, Hanji Paper Craft
- August 15 at 11am, Rainforest Show

Please visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov for more information and to register.

(Continued on pg. 8.)

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.

Richard Byrd Library Update (cont'd)

Friends of Richard Byrd Library Book Sale



Our library activities would not be possible without the support of Friends groups such as the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Help support the library and our Friends by restocking your bookshelves at their semiannual used book sale!

Wednesday, May 29, 2:00 - 5:00pm (Preview Sale: \$10 entrance fee)

Thursday, May 30, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Friday, May 31, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday, June 1, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Sunday, June 2, 12:00 - 2:00pm (Bag Sale: \$5 per bag)

Popular books for all ages are available for sale at the Friends book sale.

Out and About



Thanks to Lynbrook Elementary for inviting us to your Literacy Night!

We're always excited to visit our neighbors in the community. Recently, we've had the pleasure of participating in Lynbrook Elementary's Literacy Night, Garfield Elementary's Summer Resource Event and Irving Middle School's Heritage Night, and we will be visiting these and other schools in the next month as part of programs to promote reading over the summer. As we plan additional tours and visits to schools, English language learning groups and other community organizations over the coming months, please let us know if you'd like us to participate in your event by emailing librb@fairfaxcounty.gov or calling the branch at 704-451-8055.

Other Library Events

- Master Gardeners Plant Clinic, Tuesdays from 10am-1pm from now through September.
- Novel Idea Book Club, 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7-8pm.
- Coffee and a Classic Movie, 1st Friday of the month (June's movie will be on June 7) starting at 10:30am.
- Still Life Drawing, May 11 and June 8, 2-3pm
- English Conversation Groups, Tuesdays from 7-8pm and Saturdays from 11am-12pm.

For information on these and other Richard Byrd Library programs, visit bit.ly/RB_Programs. We hope to see you soon!



Plant Sale! You're Invited!

Springfield Acres Garden Club will be hosting a plant sale on Tuesday, May 28th !

Location: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church at 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, VA

Time: 10 am - 12 pm.

The sale will be at the front of the church, next to the Cardinal Forest Plaza.

Indoor plants, outdoor plants, decorative pots and gently used garden tools - priced to sell!



County Taxes Increased Again

Homeowners in Fairfax County, Virginia, will see their yearly tax bill increase as part of the fiscal 2025 budget approved by the Board of Supervisors.

As part of the package, the residential tax rate is increasing by 3 cents, and will now be \$1.125 per \$100 of assessed value. The result, the county said, is an average real estate tax bill increase of just over \$450.

The increase is necessary, lawmakers said, to offset the loss in commercial tax revenue caused by a rise in telework in the aftermath of the pandemic.

The residential tax rate increase is part of the budget package the Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 to approve. Supervisor Pat Herrity voted against it.

The budget also includes pay increases for most county employees, ranging from 3.25% to 6%, and millions in extra funding for Fairfax County Public Schools.



Lake Accotink Park Happenings

Beginning Birdwatching

05/18/2024 7:00 am

(4-Adult) Learn identification tips by sight and sound and how to make your yard more attractive to native species. Students can borrow binoculars from the class for a view of outdoor bird feeding stations. Registration required for children and adults.

[Beginning Birdwatching](#)

Fishing for Parent and Child

05/18/2024 9:00 am

(5-Adult) In this introductory course parents and children will learn how to fish together. The class begins with the basics including how to rig and use a fishing rod, safety, environmental awareness and fishing. Rod and bait will be provided. Each person must register. Participants 16 and older must have valid Virginia fishing license.

[Fishing for Parent and Child](#)

Fungus Among Us

05/18/2024 11:00 am

(4-Adult) Learn identification tips by sight and sound and how to make your yard more attractive to native species. Students can borrow binoculars from the class for a view of outdoor bird feeding stations. Registration required for children and adults.

[Fungus Among Us](#)



Important Telephone Numbers

Police, Fire, Ambulance (Emergency)..... 911
 Police (Non-Emergency).....703-691-2131
 Poison Control.....800-222-1222
 Dominion (Virginia Power).....866-366-4357
 Washington Gas.....844-927-4427
 Fairfax Water.....(Day)703-698-5800
 (Evening/Emergency)703-698-5613

24-Hr. Emergency Services (Mental Health, Drugs, Alcohol)
703-573-5679
 Animal Control.....703-691-2131

Tax Information/Real Estate Assessments.....703-222-8234
 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).....804-497-7100
 Metrobus and Metrorail (WMATA).....202-637-7623
 Virginia Railway Express (VRE).....800-743-3873



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, May 21, 2024**
- * **Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024**



Food Spotlight: Lorton Farmer's Market

Do you miss the Springfield Farmer's Market? It was a lovely gathering place for fresh produce and interesting prepared foods. Those first juicy strawberries, the mounds of heirloom tomatoes, and the colorful assortment of winter squashes were appealing and tasty, and we had the opportunity to talk with local farmers and learn about their goods.



An equally excellent market is waiting for you to discover just how fun and convenient shopping for exciting edible delights can be. It's the Lorton Farmer's Market, part of the Fairfax County Farmer's Market program.

Located close to central Springfield, at the Lorton VRE Station Parking Lot on 8990 Lorton Station Blvd, the market is a mere ten-minute drive south on Backlick Rd on Sunday mornings. As you step into the market, you'll be greeted by a friendly and uncrowded atmosphere, multiple produce tents, a variety of prepared foods, and a compost collection station, all contributing to the sense of community that makes our market special.

By choosing to shop locally at farmer's markets like ours, you're not just getting fresh, delicious food. You're also preserving local farmland, creating local jobs, and ensuring that almost ninety cents of every dollar you spend stays within the local economy. The foods you buy were likely picked a day or two before arriving at the market – instead of 7-14 days before landing at the grocery store. So, every purchase you make is a vote for a healthier, more sustainable community.

The Fairfax County Farmer's Market program requires that the vendors live within a 100-mile radius of the county and only sell goods that they produce themselves. The markets are staffed by volunteer market managers who solve logistics issues and answer questions.

See you at the market!

Lorton Farmer's Market Vendors:

- Chadon Beni
- Freed's Biscuit Company
- Gigi's Microgreens and More
- House of Empanadas
- Kaye's Mini Doughnuts
- Kuhn Orchards
- Layla's Lebanese Restaurant
- Linda Vista Farm
- Little Green Farm



- My Cravingz
- Ochoa Produce
- Panorama Baking
- Rock Hill Honey Bee Farms
- Samkara Foods
- Sip Coffee
- Smith Family Farm
- TTU
- Yume Asian Fusion



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www.lamartss.com

SANDWICH REPUBLIC

www.sandwichrepublicVA.com
facebook.com/SRepublicVA

7020-C Old Keene Mill Rd.
Springfield, VA 22150
(703) 451-1655



*I'm going to
Sonny's World*

Famous Fish Fry

Fish and Taters. Yummy

See Ya There

\$20.00 per person

Fund Raiser for Needy Post Vets

Post 176 Springfield Patio

June 23, 2024

3:00—6:00 PM

Tickets Available in the Social Quarters

NO CARRY OUT

After 200 PM

NO CARRY OUT

Donations Welcome

ECHO News

What ECHO Needs Right Now

ECHO's Donation Door, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, is open from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm on weekdays and from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Receipts are cheerfully provided. ECHO's Clothing Department distributes diapers and wipes to client families who have infants. We also assist women with sanitary supplies. Donations of those items help ECHO very much. Our most-needed apparel right now includes boys' and girls' sneakers, children's spring and summer clothing, sizes 18 months and up; new underwear in boys' or men's sizes; men's spring and summer shirts in Small, Medium, and Large. The Housewares Department needs towels, comforters in all sizes, blenders, mixers, and irons. ECHO also needs cereal, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, canned meats or fish, peanut butter, crackers, shampoo, and laundry detergent.



Breaking a Sad Record

ECHO's Food Co-Chairs report that in February, ECHO responded to food requests from 154 households within our service area. We were able to serve those families, but it took more than 25,000 pounds of food, a greater total amount than we distributed per month during the first terrible months of the Covid lockdown. Food needs persist.

Volunteer Opportunities

Among the volunteer jobs that ECHO is hoping to fill soon is one called Counselor Admin Support. ECHO needs one person in this position during each weekly work shift, so, a total of 8 persons are needed. These volunteers will engage directly with people seeking assistance and take basic information that will help determine their eligibility for the type of support they seek. Training for this job will be provided. If you are interested in serving the community in this way for a few hours once a week, please email Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Online and Phone Scams

Online scams are on the rise. The continually increasing sophistication of scamming and phishing techniques combined with the typically low cost of sending out huge numbers of probes, means that everyone must be continually on their guard. The individual scams are too varied and too numerous to list, but here are some general safety rules that can help you avoid most of them.



- 1. Never assume the sender is actually who they appear to be.** It is possible to have the originator ID in emails, text messages, and phone calls appear to be any name or number - whether a real ID or one made up. Verify the source of a message before giving any personal or sensitive information.
- 2. Do not click on a link, scan a QR code, reply to a text/email, or respond to a phone call** unless you are certain it is legitimate. If you are not certain, verify authenticity by contacting a known customer support or help line.
- 3. Don't reuse numbers or passwords across accounts.** If scammers acquire a username/password, they will often try it across a variety of common sites.
- 4. Never pay up front for a promised prize.** It's a scam if you are told that you must pay fees or taxes to receive a prize or other financial windfall.
- 5. Watch out for deals that are only "good today" and that pressure you to act quickly.** Walk away from high-pressure sales tactics that don't allow you time to read a contract or get legal advice before signing or paying.
- 6. Beware when someone plays on your emotions or claims there's an urgent situation.** Advances in artificial intelligence make it easier for scammers to clone voices and alter images to make it seem like someone you know needs help. Contact the person yourself to verify the story. Use contact information you know is theirs. If you can't reach them, try to get in touch with them through another trusted person, like a family member or their friends.
- 7. Avoid paying with gift cards or cryptocurrency.** If you are asked to pay with gift cards or cryptocurrency, it is likely to be a scam - especially if the payment purports to be to a government agency or a large business.

Put your number on the National Do Not Call Registry. Go to www.donotcall.gov or call (888) 382-1222.

Grace

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

"We Choose Welcome"

A friendly, inclusive, neighborhood church

Worship Sundays @ 10:30 am: in person or online
 7434 Bath St. • 703-451-2900 • gracepresby.org



Local Car Care You Can Trust.

Our award-winning service is here for you.

We insist on the best for your vehicle. ASE Technicians with over 300 certifications.

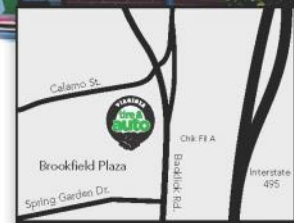
Car care you need and nothing else. Honest service recommendations.

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Springfield Civic Association
 Where we all come together

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 to join or renew online.

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