

September 2024

Volume 42, Issue 1

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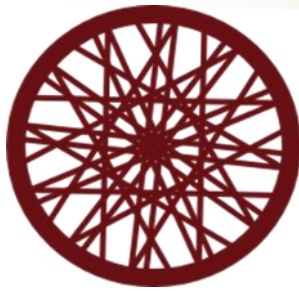
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Springfield Reporter



Springfield Civic Association

President's Message—Gail Nittle



Greetings! Please join us for our SCA Membership meeting – “The Homeless Among Us” on 17 September 2024! Danien “Dee” Johnson, Adults-Only Households Program Manager, with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness will be providing us with information that will open your eyes about who the homeless are (this may surprise you!), the programs available to them (right here in our own Crestwood/Lynbrook neighborhoods and throughout Fairfax County), and what we can do to help. Commander Marisa Kuhar of the Franconia Police District, plans to join our meeting and be available for your questions. Supervisor Rodney Lusk is hoping to attend to explain Fairfax County’s Board of Supervisors’ commitment to end homelessness. Don’t miss this meeting!

After several years of being hampered by COVID concerns, the revitalized Springfield Bridge Walk was a great success with lots of participating community groups (including the SCA), COL David Stewart (new Garrison Commander of Ft. Belvoir), Supervisor Rodney Lusk, Delegate Mark Sickles, Delegate Kathy Tran and Franconia District Police Station Commander Maj. Marisa Kuhar taking part. Thanks go to Post Commander Kevin Gaddis and the members of American Legion Post 176 (especially SCA member Royes Gernandt) for organizing and hosting!



We have an election coming up on Tuesday, November 5th. The freedom to vote is a great privilege as well as a responsibility. To register online go to <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/>

The ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Commuter Garage was an exciting event! NBC 4 coverage can be viewed here. <https://youtu.be/a3e1JkcsO0c?si=uhkKuzLS4uJYyNPB> The top floor as well as the ground floor have all kinds of possibilities for community use!

The SCA’s Annual Halloween Contest is back again this year, thanks to organizer and enthusiast Jason Becknell! See the flyers inside the newsletter for details!

Supervisor Lusk has provided a great roundup of Springfield events/issues! Your SCA Board meets with him three times a year and our next meeting is in October. If you have concerns, please email me at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com

The Springfield Butcher has provided a \$20 gift certificate for a drawing at the September 17th meeting. You must be an SCA member and attend the meeting to enter the drawing! The Springfield Butcher is a family owned business that has been in Springfield since 1977! They are one of the SCA’s most faithful supporters! Whether you win the drawing or not, it’s worth taking a visit to the Springfield Butcher! Thank you, Springfield Butcher! See their story inside.



We have yard signs and need yards in which to put them the Wednesday before our meetings. If you are willing to have a sign in your yard, please contact me at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com

Looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 17th! ~Gail

September Meeting
Tuesday
September 17, 2024
7:00pm—Social
7:30pm—Meeting
Crestwood Elementary School

Program:

“The Homeless Among Us”
Danien “Dee” Johnson,
Fairfax Co. Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

September SCA Meeting Speaker



Danien Johnson is a dedicated human services professional with a strong focus on trauma-informed best practices and equity initiatives. With a robust background in program management, strategic planning, and community engagement, Danien has consistently driven positive change in diverse communities.

In her role as Program Manager and Contract Monitor at Fairfax County, she oversees homeless assistance programs, ensuring compliance and alignment with strategic goals. Her expertise extends to developing and implementing effective equity plans in housing and homelessness, particularly during her tenure as Housing Services Specialist IV and Director of Client Services at ALIVE!.

Danien's commitment to fostering systemic responses to equity challenges is complemented by her educational background, as current student in a Doctorate in Community Care & Counseling (Traumatology) program from Liberty University.

Her leadership and advocacy have been instrumental in advancing trauma-informed care and creating inclusive, supportive environments for vulnerable populations.

SCA Member Trains for Mowing

Charlie Lewis spent part of his summer getting in shape for his weekly mowing of the Crestwood triangle.

"I hiked 3 miles into the Grand Canyon and back up. Hot and very tiring. 2100 feet elevation change. The Colorado River is in the background."

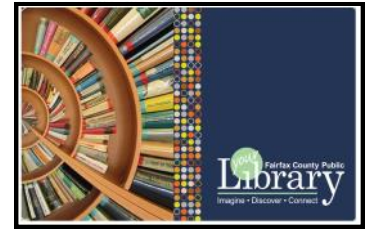
Thanks, Charlie, for making the Crestwood triangle look so good!

thank you!



Don't Have A Library Card???

Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month this September with Richard Byrd Library and the American Library Association! We're inviting everyone to discover the incredible resources and opportunities available at your local library by signing up for a library card.



Today's libraries are vibrant community centers offering much more than just books. At the library, you'll find diverse programs, job search assistance, homework help, book clubs, author talks, story times, and more.

In addition to using your library card to check out books from a branch, a Fairfax County Public Library card can be used for a lot more.

You can access digital versions of books, audiobooks and magazines - See what else you can check out at fairfax.overdrive.com.

You can track your family history with genealogy databases and resources. Find out more about FCPL's genealogy services at bit.ly/fcpl-genealogy.

Borrow board games, binoculars, or nature backpacks. See the complete Library of Things collection at bit.ly/bit.ly/FCPL_LibraryOfThings.

Don't miss out! Visit Richard Byrd Library this September to sign up for a library card and discover all that your library has to offer.

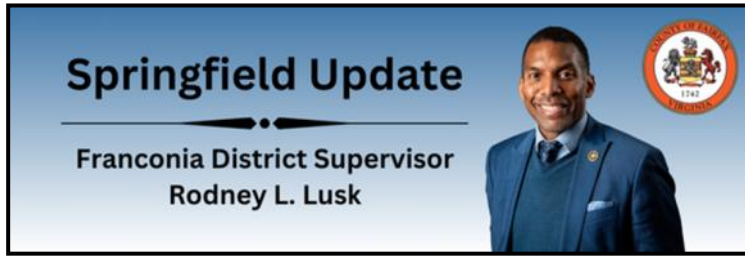
Do You Know About Kanopy?

Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) system provides a portal to [Kanopy](https://www.kanopy.com), a free subscription on-demand streaming video service. It offers "enriching films that bridge cultural boundaries, spark discussion and expand worldviews." With access to 30,000+ films, documentaries, classics and indie titles, cardholders are sure to find something they love. FCPL cardholders who create Kanopy accounts are issued five 'play credits' at the beginning of each month and have three days to watch a video once a credit is used to borrow it.

In addition to the main streaming collection, the service includes unlimited access to [Kanopy Kids](https://www.kanopy.com/kids), a children's area with a parental control PIN to limit access. Children can view "Sesame Street" or PBS Kids episodes.

For much more information, go to:

<https://research.fairfaxcounty.gov/ebooks/kanopy>.



Friends,

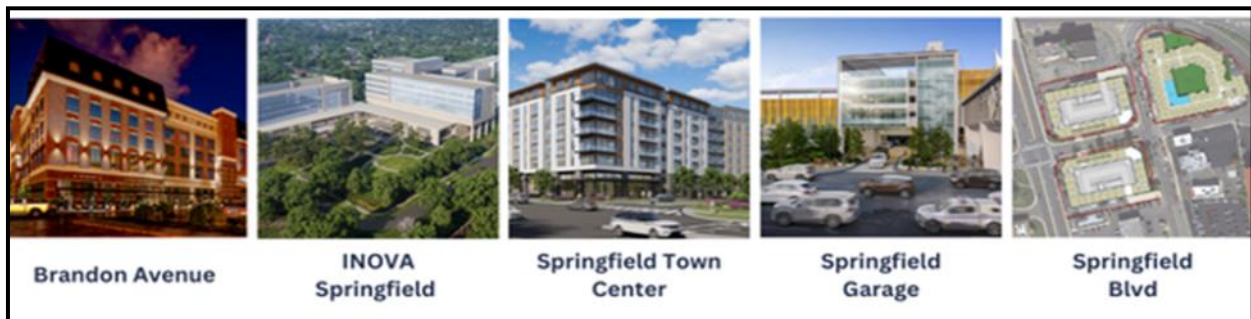
I am pleased to update you on the exciting progress we are making here in Springfield. First, I encourage you to sign up for my newsletter to stay informed about what’s happening in the Franconia District and the Board of Supervisors. You can subscribe online at Fairfaxcounty.gov/Franconia or by calling my office at (703) 971-6262.

I want to thank everyone who participated in the Springfield BridgeWalk on August 17th. Hundreds of community members walked across Veterans Bridge in Springfield and witnessed the signing of the Community Covenant between Fairfax County, Fort Belvoir, and the veteran community. More than 20 community organizations and county agencies provided information and give-aways. I am grateful to American Legion Post 176 for taking the lead and working with my office and Fort Belvoir to revive this decades-old tradition that had paused during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the Springfield Civic Association for your participation and warm welcome to Garrison Commander Col. David J. Stewart and Franconia District Police Station Commander Maj. Marisa Kuhar. I look forward to continuing the tradition for many years to come.

As many of you know, the Springfield Community Business Center Commuter Parking Garage is scheduled to open in September. The facility includes 1,100 parking spaces, bike storage, commuter slug lines, and multiple bus bays. Fairfax Connector is making significant changes to bus routes to maximize the garage’s transit potential. In addition to transit services, the garage will host two community spaces. Starting sometime next year, the street-level open plaza will be available for food trucks, farmers markets, and small community gatherings on evenings and weekends. Also starting next year, a rooftop park will be open all week for various activities, including arts and entertainment performances, exercise classes, and corporate events. If you’re interested in reserving a space, please contact Doug Loescher at Douglas.loescher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

I was pleased to hear that many of you attended the virtual public meeting on July 15 regarding the Springfield Boulevard Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposal, which includes properties near Backlick Road and Old Keene Mill Road. The proposal is for a mixed-use development with up to 732 multi-family residential units and 10,000 square feet of retail. There will be more opportunities to provide feedback on the proposed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, including votes at the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors this fall. I am committed to working with you to advance revitalization in this area, with your thoughts and suggestions taken into consideration.

Several other exciting developments are underway in and around Springfield. You may have noticed the cranes near the Springfield Town Center, where construction has begun on about 400 new multi-family residential units. It is important to note that these units will be the first new multi-family residential units in Springfield in over 20 years. We anticipate construction on a 140-room hotel to begin later this year. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has approved 40 new townhouses near Wesley Road and Villa Park Road. (continued on pg. 4)



Springfield Update—Supervisor Lusk (cont'd from pg 2)

We're also welcoming a new self-storage site to Springfield, which will replace the empty lot behind the TownePlace Suites at the corner of Brandon Avenue and Commerce Street. The Board approved the rezoning application last October and construction permit applications are now underway. The facility will feature a unique, attractive office-like design to blend with Springfield's revitalized character. The ground floor will include commercial retail space, and pedestrian improvements and parking will be added.

INOVA has broken ground on one of the largest development projects in the history of our District: a new 110-bed hospital at the corner of Franconia-Springfield Parkway and Beulah Street, expected to be completed in 2028. This project will significantly benefit the Franconia District, especially Springfield and Kingstowne, by reducing response times for medical emergencies, creating over 1,200 jobs, and boosting local businesses.

I know many of you are also interested in the latest updates on Lake Accotink. Fairfax County staff are conducting multiple studies to explore the smaller-lake option, including sedimentation and dam assessments, and a general feasibility study. Public outreach will be part of this process, and my office will share updates as we receive more information.

When I attended the Second Story Community Focus Group meetings at the Springfield Resource Center in May, I heard the need for more out-of-school activities for youth in this area.

In August, I participated in a trail walk at Mason Neck State Park with the Second Story Springfield Safe Youth Project. Activities included supervised recreation, a nature walk, and ranger-led environmental education. This is just one example of the activities that are being funded by public-private partnerships, like Friends of Mason Neck State Park, to ensure youth have productive and meaningful experiences after school, on the weekends, and during breaks.

In closing, I am proud to share that Fairfax County continues to be the safest jurisdiction of its size in the country. Violent crime rates remain low, and in many cases continue to drop. The Franconia District Police Station coverage area, which includes Springfield, saw a 6% increase in arrests, a 6% reduction in criminal calls for service, and an 8% reduction in incidents overall in June year-to-date. Traffic citations (excluding speed cameras) are up 10%. This progress is thanks to our dedicated officers and our vigilant community. If you see something suspicious, please call the non-emergency public safety line at (703) 691-2131. In case of emergency, dial 9-1-1.

Thank you to the Springfield Civic Association for the opportunity to update you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact my office at Franconia@fairfaxcounty.gov or (703) 971-6262.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

Rodney L. Lusk
Franconia District Supervisor




MARY KAY

Kaitlyn Morrissey
Independent Beauty Consultant

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Springfield, VA 22150
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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!!

Early Voting Begins September 20

The November General Election is fast approaching. It's time to make your plan to vote!



Early voting for this year's election begins in a little over two weeks on Friday, September 20. View a full list of early voting locations [on the County's website](#).

If you haven't registered to vote yet, there's still time. You can register or update your existing registration [on Virginia's Voter Portal](#). The deadline to register to vote is October 15. If you register between October 16 through Election Day, you can vote using a provisional ballot.

If you plan on voting by mail, you must [request a mail-in ballot](#) by October 25. The ballots will be mailed out on September 20. After receiving your ballot, it must be postmarked and sent by Election Day, Tuesday, November 5.

For more information about anything related to voting or elections, check out the [Fairfax County Office of Elections' website](#).

School Bus Safety Cameras

The safety and wellbeing of our residents are of the utmost importance, and this is especially true for our children. Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for a driver to speed past a school bus while it has its stop-arm out and its red lights are flashing. Recognizing that this poses significant risk to our children, Fairfax County will soon be launching a school bus arm camera program.



Fifty school bus camera systems will be installed

throughout the County to help identify and issue citations to drivers who refuse to stop while school buses are loading and unloading children. The County is working to make sure they use technology in every way possible to better protect our students. There is no excuse for a driver in a vehicle to ever pass a stopped bus that is loading or unloading students and has their stop-arm extended and red-lights flashing. Being a distracted driver is never an excuse to put our kids at risk.

SANDWICH REPUBLIC

7020-C Old Keene Mill Rd
Springfield, VA 22150

www.sandwichrepublicva.com

The goal is to get these cameras installed this calendar year. Once up and running, the installed cameras will capture vehicles speeding past buses that are loading and unloading children. That footage will then be sent to a Fairfax County police officer for review. If the officer verifies that there was a violation, a ticket with a \$250 fine will be sent to the vehicle's registered owner. The goal of this program is to keep our children safe by changing driver behavior. You can learn more by visiting the County's [Speed Camera Program Update](#).



Sponsor Spotlight

Meet the Springfield Butcher

Our story starts in 1977, when Springfield Butcher was born. It was originally an offshoot of the Annandale Butcher Shop location- helmed by Archie Preast.

Our first location in Springfield was nestled in the Tower Shopping center on Bland Street between Backlick and Brandon Ave. It was a quaint shop, with the butchers in the back (hidden), like all the other classic butcher shops. Mike the Butcher succeeded his father, Archie, allowing Archie to retire to Florida.

In 2008, the needs of our customers outpaced the smaller size of the Bland Street shop. Mike saw an opportunity to expand our size AND embrace better customer service through communication and accessibility to the butchers cutting the meat...thus taking the mystery away and encouraging education and transparency. Remember the better You cook- the better We look!

We have been proudly serving the Springfield Area since 1977 and look forward to many more years of making our customers happy!



Owner Mike Preast with SCA Thank you Cookies

Please come by and see for yourselves the extensive assortment of meat, poultry, wild-caught sustainably-sourced seafood and even wild game, too! If you don't see what you're looking for in the cases, ask about it. During the holidays, just about the entire menu is offered - from fresh local turkeys to butcher-made Beef Wellington, including homemade sides and desserts!

There's something for everyone! Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Reviews : William D. — "Awesome local spot. I will definitely be back!"

Mike R. — "Happy to give them the highest marks. I highly recommend them!"

Marc S. — "I was very impressed with their inventory, shop, and the service."



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Sun 10-3
Monday Closed

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SEAFOOD FRESH DAILY

www.SpringfieldButcher.com

2024 Halloween Decorating Contest

Who: All residents within the Springfield Civic Association boundaries
(See www.springfieldcivic.org for details)

When: Sunday, October 27th between 6 and 9pm

How: Email SCAHalloween@gmail.com with your name, address, and telephone number. Feel free to encourage your neighbors!

Awards: Winners will be announced that night with a yard sign placed in their front yard for bragging rights to the whole neighborhood

Application Deadline: Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Categories: Best Pumpkin Best Doorway
 Scariest Most Creative

Judges' Favorite

2023 Judges' Favorite



Contest Rules

1. Decorations can include anything, but should not be discriminatory, political, or in any way inappropriate for children and neighbors to see/hear. Judges will exclude entries that do not comply with these guidelines.
2. Decorations must comply with Fairfax County laws and housing codes.
3. Decorations will be judged solely on their presentation at the time of judgment. No other criteria will be considered for this competition.
4. By entering, you are giving permission to the SCA to take pictures of your decorations for use in our newsletter and social media.
5. If you are interested in being a judge, email SCAHalloween@gmail.com by **October 13th**. Judges are not eligible to enter the contest.
6. Judges' decisions are final!

Q&A

Q: *Is there any cost to enter the contest?*

A: No. Participation is free and SCA membership is not required.

Q: *Do I have to be home the night of the contest?*

A: No, but we will notify you when we are heading to your home. Please make sure that your decorations are ready for our arrival.

Q: *How do the categories work?*

A: All contestants are automatically entered in the four main categories and judge's favorite. A contestant can only win one of the first four categories and judge's favorite in the spirit of neighborhood participation.

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, September 17, 2024**

* **Tuesday, November 19, 2024**





You're cordially Invited to Fort Belvoir's Annual Retiree Appreciation Day!

Friday 25 October 2024 • 0800 - 1300

Wells Field House • Bldg. 1810
2104 Goethals Rd
Fort Belvoir, VA

Subject Matter Experts:

Delta Dental, TRICARE, AARP, AUSA, GEHA, Blue Cross/Blue Shield & more.



Health Fair:

Flu shots & various clinics;
Breakfast (lite refreshments) &
Lunch (Bagged Lunch).



1300:

Cake cutting ceremony, cake provided by AAFES.

POC: RSO
703-806-4551

Reconnect with familiar faces & create new friendships!



ECHO



ECHO's Food Pantry

A summer with few food drives and low food donations has left ECHO's Food Pantry with urgent needs. We hope that our generous community will help us soon. Requests for food assistance are higher than pre-Covid levels. ECHO sees clients by appointment so as not to overwhelm our capacity, and every food assistance appointment is filled nearly every day. Other organizations are seeing the same level of need.

Here are some local places to drop off food donations if you find it difficult to get to ECHO's Donation Door on a weekday between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening, 7:00 to 9:00:

Firestone Complete Auto Care, 6699F Springfield Mall, is holding a food drive for ECHO September 1 - 15. Non-perishable foods can be dropped off there Monday through Friday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Saturday from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Sunday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Here is a list of places that maintain permanent food drop boxes for ECHO:

Braddock District Gov't Office lobby, 9002 Burke Lake Road, weekdays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and accessible through the Kings Park Library until 9:00 pm on Mondays and Tuesdays

West Springfield Gov't Office, lobby of the police station, 6140 Rolling Road, open 24 hours

Cardinal Forest Giant, 8320 Old Keene Mill Road

Saratoga Giant, 8074 Rolling Road

Springfield Plaza Giant, 6364A Springfield Plaza

A Top Shelf Gift!

Wegmans, 7905 Hilltop Village Center Drive, Alexandria, came to ECHO's rescue in a big way! Our Food Pantry shelves were falling apart after years and years of constant use. Fairfax County Supervisor Rodney Lusk connected ECHO with the Hilltop Village Wegmans which donated new shelves. As an additional gift to ECHO, they disassembled the old shelves and installed the new ones. The Hilltop Village Wegmans has also been providing ECHO with excess produce, meat, bread and dairy items. ECHO is truly grateful for their support of our mission. Now, our hope is to fill those new shelves with donated non-perishable foods.



Clothing, Household Goods and Volunteers

ECHO's Housewares Department is hoping for donations of hand towels and 3- and 5-quart pots. The Clothing Department is concentrating on fall and winter clothing now and hoping for donations of warm clothing for boys or girls in sizes 4 through 20 as well as sneakers for older kids in sizes 1 to 6. Adult winter coats in small, medium and large sizes and new men's underwear are also needed.

ECHO has a few volunteer openings for people who are available on Thursday evenings and who would like to work with clothing donations. We are also looking for a Spanish speaker who would be interested in working with clients on Tuesday mornings. We have several openings for those interested in client engagement and are available Tuesday evenings. If you are interested in finding out more about volunteering for ECHO, please email volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Yard Sale Coming in October

Mark your calendar now for October 26 when ECHO will have its Fall Yard Sale extravaganza at St. Bernadette's Gym, Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

Richard Byrd Library News

Greetings from Richard Byrd Library! It has been a very busy summer at the library, and we're thrilled that we saw so many of you visit the branch to borrow a book or puzzle for a beach vacation, attend one of our many programs, or simply stop by to say hi.

Summer Reading Program

Thank you for making our Summer Reading Adventure a huge success this year. At Richard Byrd, approximately 650 kids and adults enrolled and 440 finished the program. I hope our finishers are enjoying the prizes offered by the Park Authority and our other generous community partners, and we hope to see you all for our Winter Reading Program in December!



Congratulations to all our Summer Reading Adventure finishers!

All Fairfax Reads

Join us for this annual event that encourages our community to come together for a shared reading experience. This year, Fairfax County Public Library is hosting events and a community read of James Baldwin's classic 1953 novel, *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of his birth. You can find more information about the events that will be held throughout the county in September and October at bit.ly/FCPL_AllFairfaxReads.



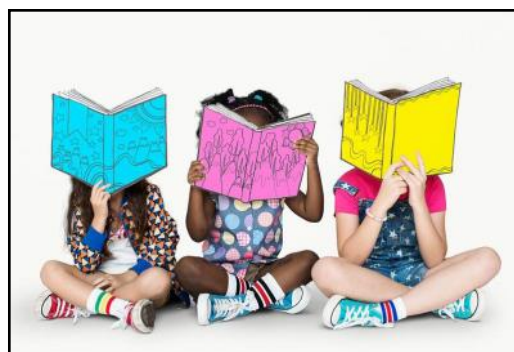
All Fairfax Reads
(art courtesy of Min Ressay)

Knitting for Charity



Knit for Shelter House (photo by Nik on Unsplash).

The knitting for charity program returns to the library this fall! Starting September 16, pick up yarn while supplies last at Richard Byrd Library or other participating Fairfax County Public Library branches. You'll then have until November 15 to knit an adult winter hat and drop it off at the library for donation to Shelter House. For more information, please visit bit.ly/FCPL_KnittingForCharity. (Continued on pg. 7)



Richard Byrd Library News (cont'd)

“Geek out” at the seventh annual celebration of comic books, science fiction, fantasy, TV, movies and more at LibraryCon at the Jim Scott Community Center in Fairfax on October 12 from 10am-2pm. Family friendly costumes are encouraged. Until then, pick up a free comic book while supplies last at Richard Byrd Library. For more information, visit <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/12567787>.

Events at Richard Byrd

In addition to these great programs, you can rely on us to provide story times, art programs, English classes, and other activities for the whole community. For more information on all of Richard Byrd’s programs, visit <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar?cid=6524&t=d&d=0000-00-00&cal=6524&inc=0>.



Friends and staff of the Richard Byrd Library at Bridge Walk 2024.

We would also love the chance to visit you! If you’d like to invite us to participate in an upcoming event with your organization or share information about the library and its resources, please reach out to us at librb@fairfaxcounty.gov. We hope to see you soon!

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10th ANNUAL
Sons of the
AMERICAN LEGION

PIG ROAST

Location

American Legion Post 176
6520 Amherst Ave.
Springfield, VA

TICKETS

\$20 PER PERSON
** no presale **

DETAILS

Public Welcome
Music DJ
Pork, Chicken, & more!

www.facebook.com/Squadron176



Saturday

September 21

1pm – 5pm



Springfield Icon David Fischer Remembered

David Charles Fischer

July 25, 1928 — June 15, 2024



Brilliant business mind and Springfield founding father, David Fischer, passed on to his next chapter June 15, 2024, following a valiant battle with Alzheimer's.

Mr. Fischer was born in Buffalo, New York on July 25, 1928, to Ester and Charles Fischer. He was the fourth of five children. A devoted husband of more than 44 years to his wife Wanda, David had six children by his first wife, Margaret. David also raised Wanda's daughter and helped raise a host of grandchildren. His love and acceptance was a model of step parenthood for his entire family.

Following High School, Mr. Fischer studied drafting and worked as a draftsman for General Electric in Buffalo. After his marriage to Margaret, he relocated to Northern Virginia, where he started as a shoe salesman in Shirlington, Va. While there, he met Wally Stapleton, who would later become his store manager at Fischer Hardware. In the mid 1950s, he left the shoe business and began working with his father-in-law at Springfield Paint and Hardware. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Fischer bought out his father-in-law and changed the store name to the iconic Fischer Hardware, a beloved Springfield business for well over 50 years.

Under his direction, the store expanded five times and was ultimately housed in what was once the Safeway grocery store across from Mike's American Grill. Mr. Fischer had a staff of close to 75, and many employees worked for him for decades. The store sold in 2010.

An avid sportsman, Mr. Fischer loved to fish and hunt in his earlier years. He graduated to snowmobiling and boating, eventually settling on sailing as his passion. His final sailboat was a 52 foot Irwin that he lovingly designed and piloted from Tampa, Florida to Solomons, Maryland in the summer of 1980.

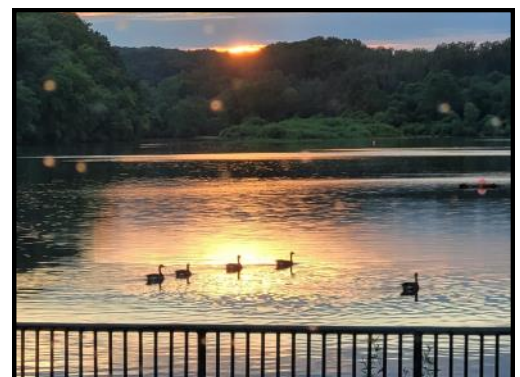
To those lucky enough to have known him, he will be remembered as a gentle, caring, charismatic man who detested conflict and expected civility from and afforded civility to everyone he met.

Lake Accotink Update

On July 23, the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee was updated on the Lake Accotink Project by representatives from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES). The presentation summarized the information concerning preservation of a smaller lake that would retain much of the aesthetic and recreational value that park visitors currently enjoy. Three efforts are underway, and a dedicated Lake Accotink Project Manager has been hired to oversee this project.

- **Sedimentation Study:** The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and consultant support are being used to establish an additional gage location, perform more physical surveying, and complete additional studies to refine the understanding of the material moving through and being captured by Lake Accotink. Monitoring work will extend through 2027.
- **Dam Assessment:** The Fairfax County Park Authority is leading the effort, with support from DPWES. Work is anticipated to begin this fall and be finalized in early 2025.
- **Preservation Study:** The project team is working on final refinement of the scope of work, which will include assessing, evaluating, and identifying workable options to preserve Lake Accotink as a smaller lake.

The scope of work will be shared for public input prior to authorization. Work is anticipated to begin in Fall 2024. Updates will be provided periodically, and initial study results based on the first year of USGS monitoring data should be published in late 2025. Additional updates to the study will be necessary using updated USGS monitoring of sedimentation rates through 2027.



Friends of Richard Byrd Library

UPDATED 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>

WOOHOO, Book Sale Success!!



What fabulous volunteers we had for the Friends of Richard Byrd Library semiannual book sale!! Thirty-three volunteers enthusiastically gave 575 hours of their time and talent over nine days!

We set up tables, moved boxes into categories, opened and unloaded thousands of books, hauled crates, alphabetized fiction, organized categories, posted signs, matched Beanie Babies/stuffed animals to gift quality books, set up gift tables, priced many items, doubled Trader Joe bags, rang up small sales and large sales throughout the week, shared some of our favorite titles and enjoyed each other's company!

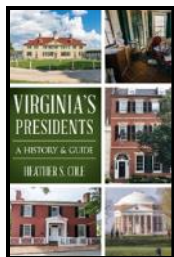
Though our inventory was a bit low this time around, the room looked fantastic by the time the sale started. The preview sale was lively as was opening day for the public. Customers seemed happy and we had many comments about how well the sale was organized (our trademark!). The library staff was helpful, patient and gracious as we borrowed carts and bookends and interrupted their work to go in and out of the back rooms dozens of times...**thank you!**

This sale generated fantastic revenue of over \$8,800.00 which will fund many RB Library programs and subscriptions as well as other needs the staff has throughout the year.

Thank you for supporting your community through your volunteer efforts and purchases! See you on November 30th to begin setting up for our next semiannual sale!

P.S. If you would like to support your community and volunteer with a hardworking and fun team, please send an email to our Volunteer Coordinator, Martha, at rbfriends@gmail.com.

We supplied hundreds of children's books to two non-profits at the end of the sale (*Books are Food for Your Brain* and *Conways Field & Court*).



Fall for the Book Event: Meet historian Heather Cole, author of *Virginia's Presidents: A History & Guide on Tuesday, October 15th*, time TBD. Books available for sale and signing. Cosponsored by Fall for the Book and Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. The author guides you through the Old Dominion to visit the museums and historic homes that tell the stories of Virginia's presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson. More US Presidents were born in Virginia than in any other state. From Mount Vernon, Monticello and Montpelier to the Wilson Presidential Library, read the stories of the sites that shaped the lives of presidents.

2024 Springfield BridgeWalk

The Friends and staff reprise the book cart drill team to participate in the Springfield BridgeWalk on August 17th. Hundreds of community members crossed Veterans Bridge and witnessed the renewal of the Community Covenant between the County, Fort Belvoir and the veteran community.

Coffee and a Classic Movie: Come by the library on the first Friday of every month at 10:30am to have coffee and watch a classic movie. Check the website (or bulletin board) for each new movie.

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.

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



Thanks to former FCPL Trustee
Keith Foxx for photos.

Meet the New Commander of Franconia District Police Station

Major Marisa Kuhar Commander, Franconia District Police Station



Dear Franconia Community,

Since I have only recently taken over as Commander of the Franconia District Police Station, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. But first, let me congratulate our outgoing Station Commander, recently promoted Deputy Chief Kevin Shaw, and thank him for his work as Franconia Station Commander. I wish him success in his new role commanding the Resource Management Bureau.

I started my FCPD career in 2000 as a Cadet. Since graduating from the Criminal Justice Academy, I have had assignments over the years that include the Sully, Mason, and McLean District Stations. I have also had assignments with the Youth Services Division, the Criminal Justice Academy, the Department of Public Safety Communications (9-1-1 Center), and the Major Crimes Bureau. I was also afforded the opportunity for temporary assignments with the Criminal Investigations Section of Mason District Station and with the Organized Crime and Narcotics Bureau, and I was the Court Liaison Supervisor for a brief period.

I have spent the majority of my career in a patrol capacity. I have been a supplemental member of the department's Peer Support Team and currently remain a member of the department's Honor Guard. Additionally, I am the Commander of the FCPD Crisis Negotiations Team. In my current rank as Major, I have held the position of Staff Duty Officer for the department and worked as a Commander in the Resource Management Bureau. I enjoy working in a patrol capacity and went back to work as a Staff Duty Officer for a second time just prior to being assigned here in Franconia.

I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Liberty University and hold a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. I have also completed the [PERF's Executive Course, Senior Management Institute for Policing](#).

I am excited for my new role as the Commander of the Franconia District Station, and I would like to continue growing within the department and implementing changes that benefit the officers and community. I have heard many great things about this community and the officers that serve in this district. I have personally seen great police work from the officers of this district while working as the Duty Officer for the County. I understand a primary community concern is traffic and thefts. I welcome any additional feedback for focus and hope to address the major concerns of both the community and the officers. I am also excited about the new station that is under construction and on schedule to be completed next year. I hope to have more information in the coming months on that topic.

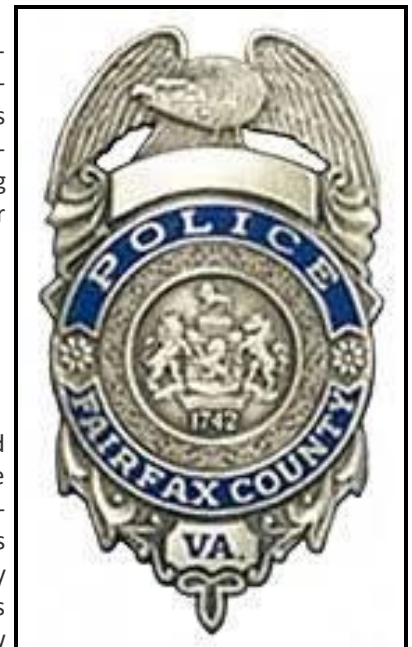
I would like to thank all for the warm welcoming I have already received since arriving, and look forward to meeting more of you in the future and addressing any concerns.

Sincerely,

Marisa

Major Marisa Kuhar

Commander, Franconia District Station



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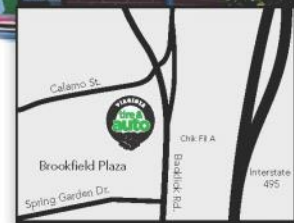
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 Where we all come together

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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