Springfield Reporter

November 2017

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November Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 21st Crestwood ES

Social time starts at 7 Meeting begins at 7:30 sharp

> Program: Springfield Revitalization

Speakers: Nancy-jo Manney and Doug Loescher



Springfield Civic Association

Est. 1953

Where we all come together

President's Message—Bruce Waggoner

Nothing less than Autumnal greetings from the Springfield Civic Association:

November starts out colorfully enough, but by month's end the trees have shed their leaves and the stark look warns us of winter's coming bite. As we brace for colder weather, we also pause for Veterans Day and soon after pause again for an American Thanksgiving. It's a time to reflect on past and current sacrifices, and a time, too, for families and communities to reconnect and bond as the year draws down all the while the horizon glints of a new year in the making.

In this spirit of reflection, thanks, and future aspirations, come join the SCA on Tuesday, 21 November at Crestwood Elementary School to check our progress on revitalization in Springfield. Our featured guests will be Nancy-jo Manney and Doug Loescher, Greater Springfield Chamber of

Message From Jeff McKay

Since June of 2016 I have been in discussions with Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to address new traffic congestion on Telegraph Road mostly generated by Jeff Todd Way's opening and growth at Fort Belvoir. Just watch what happens every afternoon as traffic exits the post and uses Telegraph Road and Mount Vernon Highway just to avoid Route One. A main source of backups come from the signal at Telegraph Road and Hayfield Road. Most notably, the traffic signal often causes northbound afternoon traffic back-ups well past Jeff Todd Way.

You might be familiar with the South Kings Highway/South Van Dorn area where on a small budget, we were able to fix one of the largest bottlenecks in Lee District. We are trying to imitate that same idea by constructing a short term project at Hayfield Road and Tele-graph Road in the least intrusive and most environmentally-sensitive and cost-conscious way.

While a short-term fix will still potentially take a few years to complete, this fix utilizes existing right of way and mitigates impacts to the Hayfield schools. While improving traffic through the intersection is currently in design, I am close to securing all necessary funding for construction. A full traffic review of this area, including signal timing, adjusting lane striping, and road reconfiguration options, were part of an evaluation done by FCDOT and VDOT. In the much longer term, the Fairfax County Transportation Plan (TPP) includes two projects for the full widening of Telegraph Road that will be considered in the upcoming funding cycle. One project proposes to widen Telegraph Road from Hayfield Road to South Van Dorn Street from 2 to 4 lanes and the other project would widen Telegraph Road from Lead Road to Hayfield Road from 2 to 4 lanes. These projects are currently on a countywide unfunded project list, making the short term fix more viable, less environmentally intrusive and financially doable. Intersection improvements that target bottlenecks have been proven to work. The full widening of Telegraph Road has been talked about for literally decades, and it's time to implement spot improvements now rather than wait even more decades for the full widening project.

Commerce, and Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization, respectively. We look to learn about the town center's future plans, the construction of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Headquarters, the progress of the St. James Sports Complex, and more.

As an organization, the SCA is futurefocused. As such, this meeting resets our sights on the skyline, and positive changes, new buildings and renewed energy to sustain us.

We look forward to seeing you there! Social starts at 7:00pm with business beginning promptly at 7:30pm. We wish you the best of Novembers, and the Happiest of Thanksgivings.

Yours in Springfield, Bruce Waggoner/SCA President

Sponsor Spotlight

Eddie Greenan Jewlers

The Springfield Civic Association (SCA) has several generous sponsors whose financial support makes it possible for the SCA to serve the central Springfield community. In an effort to tell you more about these wonderful local businesses, each issue we will spotlight a sponsor in our newsletter.

The November 2017 Sponsor Spotlight shines on Eddie Greenan Jewelers located in the Springfield Plaza. Eddie Greenan has served the Springfield community since 1990. In 2009, Eddie opened Eddie Grennan Jewelers, a family owned and operated full service jewelry store, in its current location. Eddie is a certified gemologist and is accredited in the industry. He and his wife Vicki have supported the Springfield Civic Association since 2009. Eddie and Vicki are also members of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce and were recognized with the Chamber's Arthur E. Morrissette Top Hat Service Award in 2011. Eddie Greenan Jewelers also gives to the greater Springfield community through its involvement in coat drives, Manna food bank collections, and its support to several area pre-schools and elementary schools.



As a family run small jeweler, Eddie Greenan prides itself on building relationships and connecting with its customers. A large part of their business is built on returning customers who desire expert one on one service. In addition to running their business, Eddie and Vicki have ten children ranging in ages 15 to 30. Two of their eldest children are now involved in the business.

The Springfield Civic Association is grateful for the continued support of Eddie Greenan Jewelers and all of its sponsors. As you visit our sponsors, we ask that you thank them for their support as their contributions allow the SCA to achieve its goals to support the central Springfield community.



VDOT Help

VDOT Help: is there a downed traffic sign, object in a roadway, or a sidewalk that needs repair in your area? Do you know of a road that needs repair, or needs new road signs, signals or guardrail repairs? Call VDOT customer service at 1-800-FOR-ROAD or make a trackable online report at: <u>https://my.vdot.virginia.gov</u>

Pictured below is a reported storm water drain with cracked concrete on top that is a pedestrian hazard. VDOT calls them a "drainage inlet box". To report one that is an obvious pedestrian hazard or for sidewalk repair, use the VDOT online tool and select "I need a road repaired," then option "something else". Give location and details of the hazard. You can also upload a picture.

Please help keep our community safe and attractive!



Springfield Acres Garden Club

Come and join us at Springfield Acres Garden Club's monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 28th at Grace Church at <u>9 am</u>. Florist Kathleen Kelleher will instruct and delight us with her "Creating Floral Designs - A Demonstration." After the program, her designs will be raffled!

Springfield Acres Garden Club is a local non-profit organization serving the Springfield community since 1955. Our members promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility throughout our community.

We meet once a month (September through May) at Grace Presbyterian Church located at 7434 Bath Street, Springfield, Virginia. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, learn more about gardening at all stages of life, participate in workshops, and take tours. We have an outreach to school children as well as an outreach to those in a nursing home. We can even help you have your own green thumb!

We'd love to have you come and see what we're all about! Questions? Contact Gail Nittle at gnittle@gmail.com

Biking Across Fairfax County

Boland and Waggoner Complete Their Third-Annual Cross County Trail Ride

On Sunday, 15 October, Mark Boland and I cycled the Fairfax County Cross County Trail (CCT) for the third consecutive year. After two years of riding south-to-north, Mark recommended we try a different approach this year and ride from the Potomac to the Occoquan; the new approach proved a good idea. I'll explain later. The CCT's northern terminus is where Difficult Run meets the Potomac River. After touching water we started pedaling about 9:30am. After approximately 42 miles and 5.5 hours of saddle time we arrived at the boat launch on the Occoquan River at Occoquan Regional Park, tired and triumphant.

It was a good idea to take on the challenge north-to-south because the most technically challenging portion of the CCT is Difficult Run. At 18 miles it's the longest section of the CCT. Best to take it on when fresh. Every year it wears me out, frazzles my nerves (I'm clumsy on a bike.), and causes me to tumble over at least once. The night of the ride invariably I fall asleep still seeing Difficult Run obstacles and feeling my body bouncing over rocks and tree roots. Mark, on the other hand, can't get enough of challenging, technical riding. While I avoid any visible pitfall, rock or root, Mark rides straight for it with the gleefulness of a school boy. I know well enough to let him lead and by following his line mitigate personal disaster. If Mark can't execute the maneuver I am quick to dismount and discreet-ly walk my bike to safer ground. Discretion is the better part of valor, as they say; I practice it throughout Difficult Run which is aptly named.

Once out of Difficult Run at Oakmar Golf Course, the CCT follows Oakton streets that lead you over I-66, through Fairfax Circle, and down to Thaiss Park. We stopped for lunch at Fairfax Circle and pushed on through the central and southern portions of the CCT. The central section is flat and fast beginning at Pickett Road. This segment follows the Accotink Creek Stream Valley and meanders its way past Wakefield, Lake Accotink, under Old Keene Mill Road through Daventry and then crosses the Fairfax County Parkway. In this general area the southern portion of the CCT starts where it transitions to the Pohick Creek Stream Valley leading down to the Occoquan. It's aerobically challenging with plenty of paved up hill climbs, a ride through remnants of Lorton Prison, now almost completely developed, under the Box Bridge, the Lorton Workhouse Art Center, and then to the Occoquan Regional Park and the long coasting glide down to the boat launch.

For me, riding the CCT is the pinnacle physical challenge of the season. For Mark, it's a strong training ride; having walked hundreds of miles on the Appalachian Trail, it is not a physically stressful experience for him. As a team, we are two happy boys on a day-long adventure. We never know who we may cross paths with along the way. Certainly we touch base with Mother Nature out of the noise of traffic, debate politics, financial strategies, et al. Above all, it is fun. Special thanks to Jan Johnson who for three years running has delivered and retrieved us along with our trusty bicycles.

Here's to pursuing your happiness, Bruce Waggoner



Springfield Art Guild

The Springfield Art Guild (SAG) Guest Speaker series



Artists and everyone interested in art, mark your calendars for the 2nd Wednesdays of the month and enjoy a fun evening with the Springfield Art Guild (SAG) Guest Speaker series. The meetings are free and open to the public. Come and bring a friend.

Visit and Like us on Facebook for updates on our Guest Speakers, events, and what happening with SAG. https://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldArtGuild

On Wednesday, November 8th, Jim Schlett, a local award winning photographer,

gave a talk about his work and his experience as an artist in residence at the Whiskeytown National Park in California. His photographs have been published in newspapers and magazines and he has exhibited in local galleries and art shows. You can see Schlett's work online at http://photomanva.zenfolio.com/

SAG does not have a Guest Speaker in December, but join us on January 10, 2018. In January our members bring in one of their paintings or other artwork that's "in progress" for a critique of suggestions to consider to take their painting to the next level. Listening to the guest artist discuss each painting is like going to a workshop. Just hearing all the comments about the art work will bring lots insights everyone can apply to their own work. It's great for new artists and old artists alike!



On February 14th, we will have a hands on project for everyone to participate. Upcoming March - May Guest Artists will do presentations about working in colored pencil; collage and paint; and encaustics.

SAG meets in the community room at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath Street, Springfield, VA. Doors open at 6:15pm for refreshments and socializing with local artists. The speaker will begin at 7:30pm.

SAG is a non-profit group of almost 100 artists founded in 1969 to serve the community's interest in fine arts, fine crafts, and photography. SAG is a fun, welcoming community of local artists, who live not only in Springfield but also throughout Northern VA. We are a diverse group of artists ranging from hobbyists to professional artists who work in every medium. SAG meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Grace Church and sponsors 3-4 shows a year for its members. For more information about SAG, see www.springfieldartguild.org



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Richard Byrd Library News

Start the holiday season off right by shopping at the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library's Winter Book Sale. The sale begins on Thursday, Nov. 30 (1-3 Friends members, 3-9 for everyone) and continues on Friday, December 1st and Saturday, December 2nd during open hours. The sale concludes with a bag sale on Sunday, December 3rd from 12 noon to 2 pm.

In November, Fairfax County Public Library began to make Lynda.com available to its customers. Lynda.com is a resource that provides up to 6,000 online courses of interest to the business, technology and creative fields. You can learn business skills, a new programming language or how to use specific software. Courses are available at beginning or more advanced levels. To learn more, visit the library website at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/news/newsreleases/lynda-dot-com-coming-soon.htm

We will have three special STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) programs at the Richard Byrd Library in November and December. Everything STEAM is for ages 6-12 and will take place on November 13 and again on Monday, December 11, both at 4:30 pm. Family Fun and Playful Learning is for ages 0-5 accompanied by an adult and will be held on Saturday, November 18 from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon.

Winter break for FCPS this year is from December 18 to January 1st. Take a break and bring the kids or grandkids to a library program! DIY Slime and Squishies, for ages 10 and up, will be on December 18, 2:30-3:30 pm. On December 19, there will be a *Craft Extravaganza* for ages 2 to 18.

Don't forget our storytimes for preschoolers, book discussion groups, English conversation group, and more.

Registration is required for some programs. You can call the library at 703-451-8055 or register online at the library website, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Sandy Freund, Branch Manager Richard Byrd Library

Association of American University Women

AAUW has been empowering women as individuals and as a community since 1881. For more than 130 years, they have worked together as a national grassroots organization to improve the lives of millions of women and their families.

You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Springfield-Annandale branch of the American Association of University Women. The topic will be:

From Teaching Art to Chasing Spies

Retired FBI Agent / Supervisor Lydia Jechorek

Thursday, November 16

Braddock District Supervisor's Office

9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA

Free/ All are welcome

6:30 - Refreshments and socializing with local artists

7:00 - Brief business meeting followed by our program







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Friends of Richard Byrd Library Update

CoderDojo Resumes!

After a brief summer break, our CoderDojo program resumed at Richard Byrd Library in September with a full com-plement of young and eager children ready to learn computer programming. The students are preparing for a region-al competition held in Tysons in early December. Last year prizes included laptops and 3D printers. Please spread the word and bring your children to the next CoderDojo scheduled for November 18th, 1-3pm at Richard Byrd Library (and every third Saturday of each month). Beginning in January, start time may vary due to the library's hosting of VITA Tax Assistance.

Friends' Choice Awardees On Wednesday, October 11th, we were excited to recognize our Satur-day Teen Volunteer Team with a Friends' Choice Award! We started with one teen over a year ago, now the team has grown to eight teens including Frank Carlos, Roberto Flores-Fuentes, Leo Nguyen, Tony The Construction with a term of the team has the team of team of the team of t Thai, Casey Vo, Ivin Vu, and Yin Zhou. The teens randomly rotate through to volunteer two hours every Saturday. They have developed the skills to be of great service to the Friends and the library by sort-ing donated books, heavy lifting, setting up special displays and providing program support. We are so fortunate to have such a great group of young people supporting our library!



Three of the eight team members-Casey, David and Yin Photo courtesy of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library

Teacher Appreciation

On Tuesday, October 17th, the Friends hosted our 5th annual Educators' Night. Again this year the book choices were overflowing, thanks especially to the hugely successful Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce children's book drive. The Chamber collected over 3,500 new and like new books! We hosted teachers and principals from six local schools -Crestwood, Garfield, Franconia, Lynbrook, Springfield Estates, and North Springfield. Just over 75 teachers came to Richard Byrd Library to choose 15 free books for their classroom libraries. That's over 1,100 books available to young readers around Springfield! The teachers were very enthusiastic to choose books their students would enjoy. We are so grateful to our sponsors for their enduring support - Process Point Consulting, the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Tysons Corner Center and the Woman's Club of Springfield. And thanks also to all our terrific, dedicated volunteers who spent hours and hours sorting and organizing all the books and resources.

Social Media Update

We've widened our social media outreach...find (and like) the Friends on Facebook at "FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary," Instagram at "bowtiethelibrarypenguin" and Twitter at "ByrdLibFriends." Your engagement helps us reach an even broader audience!

Upcoming Events

Thursday, November 30, 3:00-9:00 pm. Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Used Book Sale. Great bargains on winter reading and holiday gifts. All ages.

Friday, December 1, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Saturday, December 2, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Used BookSale. Great bargains on winter reading and holiday gifts. All ages.

Sunday, December 3, 12:00-2:00 pm. Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Bag Sale. Fill up a bag with books for \$5. We supply the bags. All ages.



Photo courtest of the Friends of Richard Byrd Library

Volunteer: Looking for a volunteer opportunity...come join the Friends of Richard Byrd Library! Contact us at: rbfriends@gmail.com.

Woman's Club of Springfield, Inc.



The Springfield Woman's Club is in full swing as we approach the Holiday Season. We have many activities planned, most of which involve supporting the Springfield Community.

If you are looking for a good way to give back to your community, why not consider joining us? We were happy to welcome two new members at our last meeting. This is a perfect opportunity for service with a big side of fun! Do you enjoy eating out with friends? Playing Bridge (or are you interested in learning to play)? Do you enjoy tours, teas, plays, music and other outings? These are just some of the things we do to enjoy each other's company. We also have

Arts and Crafts classes at least once a month, where you can learn to make something or just enjoy coffee and friends. We meet only once a month — the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. From 6:30 to 7:00 we enjoy visiting, refreshments, view displays and sign up for upcoming activities. Following at 7:00 p.m. is our program for the month and then our Business Meeting. We are usually done by 8:30 p.m. or earlier. And, of course, we have our Pink Elephant Thrift Shop. Each member makes a commitment to work one seven hour day or two half days per month. All profits are used for philanthropic projects in our community or contributions to other non-profit organizations, such as Operation Smile, the Cancer Society, etc.

Our Club has been a proud member of the Springfield Community since 1954, when a small group of stay-at-home Moms wanted to do something to help build the then-new community. The Richard Byrd Library was one such project.

The Woman's Club of Springfield is a member of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs (GFWC). For more information about our Club and the GFWC, please visit us at www.womansclubofspringfield.org or www.gfwc.org. or call our Membership Chairman, Beverly Stoltz, at 703/941-4501.



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Trails for Youth

Springfield - Home is where your Heart is.

Have you ever made a life altering decision, one that you knew was going to change everything, but just not sure how? TrailsforYouth.Org (TYO) had to do just that about 5 years ago. TYO served youth in DC, Prince George's County (PG), Maryland and throughout Northern Virginia, working with over a thousand youth annually. After 10 years of being a recognized national leader in youth outdoor programs, safe routes to school programs and youth mountain bike racing, a change was needed. Some funding had dropped off, and staff (volunteer and paid) were burnt out. Northern Virginia funding was becoming more difficult, while the funding in DC and PG was relatively steady. This seems like it would point to a simple solution— focus on DC and PG and drop Northern Virginia—but this would never happen.



The difficulty was that the heart of TYO has always been Springfield. It's where we live, it's where we do most of our events, it's where we know teachers and school administrators at Lynbrook, Crestwood, Key and Lee, and oh so many students. We've stood side-by-side with the PTA's and the SCA and local businesses like Sheehy Subaru, The Bike Lane and Metro Run and Walk. So we went the other way, we focused on where are hearts were, Springfield. It wasn't easy; we no longer qualified for grants that were specifically geared towards Maryland and DC and believe it or not, some folks don't think there are worthy children needing investment in Springfield simply because we are in the second richest county in the United States. Go figure.

We are smaller and leaner now, and continue to have to make tough funding decisions each and every year, but do we ever regret that decision? Never! We have grown with our communities youth, seen those that we started with 15 years ago head to college, get married and have children. We have attended their Quinceaneras and weddings, cried at funerals and laughed together at meals. We are a community. The Springfield Civic Association and we hope you will continue to support us as we continue to support all of our kids. We look into the hopeful faces of Kat, Will, Mitchell, Mariana and Fransick and reflect on the successe of Dery, Phyllis, Laura and all those before them and hope we will be around to see them go on and do great things in the world.

For more information about Trails for Youth and how you can support them, send an email to julie@trailsforyouth.com or go their website, www.trailsforyouth.org

See you on the trail!



Crestview Elementary School PTA

A Word from Crestwood's PTA

A warm hello and word of thanks from your Crestwood Elementary School PTA! If you haven't met us, our 2017-18 Board includes President Esther Berg and Treasurer Jennifer Killmer Gado; and this year we're thrilled to welcome Vice President Jillian Hanright and Secretary Jennifer Sevier to our leadership team! Our next general membership meeting is on Wednesday, December 6th at 7pm in the Crestwood Library.

As we wrap up the first quarter of the school year, we're thankful for the support the Springfield community has shown us. Already, with funds we've raised, the PTA has been able to help fund a field trip for our fifth grade class, and pumpkins for our kindergarteners. If you'd like to volunteer, or just find out what we're up to, like us on <u>Facebook</u> or check out our webpage at <u>crestwood-pta.org</u>. You can also reach us at <u>crestwoodowlspta@gmail.com</u>.



Lake Accotinck Park Happenings

The boats, carousel and miniature golf are closed for the winter, but that doesn't mean the fun stops. Lake Accotink Park staff and volunteers invite all to participate in holiday revelry at the park on Saturday, December 9th. Again this year we will have horse-drawn hayrides at the marina, a campfire on the beach, and Santa in the Large Shelter ready to greet kids and pets alike.

12/9	12—3pm	Holiday Horse-Drawn Hayrides (Real horses with bells and ribbons)
		Santa at the Picnic Shelter on the hill

12/9 3–4pm Pet Visits with Santa, 3	3 – 4 pm
-------------------------------------	----------

We approach year-end grateful for the support of the community and our volunteers. We welcomed new staff this year and introduced many new programs that engage, educate, and extend the park experience beyond the ordinary. For example, a recent program about Survival Skills taught participants ages 5 through 12 how to build a temporary shelter out of sticks and leaves, how to start a fire, and essential items to bring when hiking in the woods. Naturalist Karena Carlson and Program Director Eric Malmgren have led this program and many others for school groups, homeschool groups, and for families signing up on their own. They would love to see more area children and adults take advantage of the park's program offerings.



Registration for Winter programs is happening now. To view a listing of upcoming programs at Lake Accotink Park, go online to <u>https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/events.htm</u> Registration is through ParkTakes online at <u>https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/</u> or by calling 703-222-4664.

If you have any questions about programs held at Lake Accotink Park, please give us a call at 703-569-0285 or 703-569-3464. The park office is open Monday through Friday, 10 to 5 pm. We would love for you to stop by.



Holiday Wagon Rides at Lake Accotink



Saturday, Dec. 9 2017 🕸 12−3 p.m. \$12 per person 🕸 Registration Required

> Enjoy holiday merriment on a horse drawn hayride through the park. Warm up with seasonal treats available for purchase at our snack bar. Visit Santa before or after your hayride and take photos as a souvenir of your visit! No additional charge to visit Santa! Dress for the weather. Age 2 and under free.

To register, go to parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov



For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call 703-222-4664







Sina Malekuti, D.D.S.

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Time to Pay Your Dues

The SCA would like to remind its members that dues for the 2017-2018 program year are due NOW. The funds raised from dues go directly to help support the SCA and its programs.

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

If you haven't paid your dues yet, it's not too late. You can pay your dues either by cash or check at our next meeting on Tuesday, November 211st, or you can pay your dues anytime via our website,springfieldcivic.org. Dues are \$15 per household.

Door Prizes

At every SCA membership meeting, door prizes are given out at the end of the meeting. If you're lucky, you could win a gift certificate to use at one of our local businesses.

Take a break from Thanksgiving preparations and come to the SCA meeting on November 21st to sign up for the chance to win a door prize donated by <u>Metro Run & Walk or Mike's</u> <u>American Grill.</u>

Thank you to the many local businesses who have supported the SCA over the years by donating gift certificates.



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> **November Meeting Tuesday November 21st**

Crestwood Elementary Social time starts at 7:00 Meeting begins at 7:30 sharp

Program: Springfield Revitalization

The Springfield Civic Association is a volunteer organization

dedicated to:

Where we all come together

Springfield Civic Association

Encouraging residents to be active in community affairs



 Promoting civic responsibility through education and advocacy Effectively interacting with local government and community organizations Enhancing the quality of life in Springfield.
We are the hub that links residents and organizations, enhances communications, and embraces diversity to create a vibrant Springfield community.
Join SCA
Annual dues of \$15 cover all adults in a household. Membership is open to all residents and non-resident property owners in the boundaries. Mail this form with your check to PO Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150 or bring it with you to the membership meeting, or visit <u>www.springfieldcivic.org</u> to join or renew online.
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