

## **SCA General Membership Meeting Minutes 14 November 2018**

Meeting convened at 7:30pm in Crestwood Elementary Library with Pledge of Allegiance.

### **President's Opening Remarks**

Bruce updated the membership on plans associated with Springfield central business district properties. Demolition of the old Safford Dodge property has commenced and the German grocer Lidl still plans to build a new store at this location. Hampton Inn still intends to build a flagship modern hotel on the site formerly occupied by Merv's auto repair shop. Construction continues apace on the TSA Headquarters building. Amazon is coming to Crystal City which should bode well for property values. Bruce relayed news that Nancy Jo Manning of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce is moving on to another opportunity. There has been no announcement as to her replacement. Bruce encouraged members to pay their dues. Annual dues is \$15 per household per year.

### **Treasurer Report**

Sandy Frieswyck reported a starting balance from last report of \$10,990.03. A total of \$145 in dues and advertising fees were taken in since last report. A total of \$1,383.81 was expended to include a \$500 donation to Crestwood Elementary School STEM program in honor of former Principal Tim Kasik; a donation to a Go Fund Me initiative for a Fairfax County Police Officer who experienced personal tragedy (one daughter killed and another injured); and a donation to ECHO for Thanksgiving meals. The current SCA account balance is \$9,751.22.

Sandy made a general announcement soliciting bakers to sign-up to make 4 dozen cookies that will be delivered to SCA sponsors during the upcoming holidays as a thank you for their support.

### **General Announcement**

Diane Boughton made a general announcement regarding a lost dog, Morgan, who was missing since 02 Nov when he bolted from care giver's house on Mendota Place. Morgan was sighted on 6 Nov and a tracker believed Morgan was still in the vicinity of Lake Accotink/Brookfield Park area. Diane mentioned posters with Morgan's picture are available on Nextdoor Springfield. If Morgan is sighted, numbers to call are provided on the poster.

### **PTA Update**

Lynbrook PTA representative reported that Lynbrook is trying to revitalize the PTA and is looking for volunteers. Lynbrook has Face Book page and Twitter which is it using to post news and events. Lynbrook is seeking more parent and community involvement.

Crestwood PTA announced it had a successful bake sale on election day, raising \$852. Crestwood also recently held a Math Night and Bike Rodeo which were also well attended. A total of 30 children participated in the rodeo in which taught bike safety for those biking to school. Crestwood Principal Saitta noted this was a Fairfax County initiative led by Fairfax County Bike Patrol. The children who participated received licenses and stickers for their bikes to show they had completed the training. Crestwood intends to host another rodeo in the Spring. The school has free bike helmets available for children who ride to school.

### **Halloween Decoration Contest Feedback**

Mike Slater provided feedback on the Halloween Decoration Contest. The contest had nine entrants whose decorations were judged by a panel of four on pre-set criteria. The competition was extremely close. The eventual winner on Amherst Avenue was awarded bonus points for having a central theme/concept. Overall, the event was deemed an outreach success as it touched several residents in the neighborhood who have not previously participated in SCA events. Mike noted the Crestwood side of the neighborhood had more decorations compared to the Lynbrook side.

### **Traffic Calming Update**

Jillian Hanright provided an update on Essex traffic calming effort. VDOT has put up signs noting presence of traffic humps. As an update: one traffic hump has been installed and second one is planned.

### **Shopping Cart Update**

Bruce noted that Supervisor McKay will host a meeting 29 Nov with local business, police and community reps to discuss shopping carts. Marta Morrissey intends to participate in the meeting and report back to SCA. Marta mentioned that MVLE, a business that employs and supports individuals living with disabilities, may be a solution to corral the shopping carts. MVLE indicated it may be interested in taking on this problem. Attendees briefly discussed potential solutions to include greater police enforcement, continued SCA involvement in this issue, fining local businesses who are not properly retrieving their carts.

### **Featured Speaker**

Fairfax County MPO Allie Eggers from the Franconia Police Station spoke to membership on a host of personal and home safety issues. MPO Eggers noted Captain Gregory Fried is the new Commander of Franconia Station. CPT Fried is encouraging Franconia Station Officers to participate in neighborhood events. She mentioned CPT Fried had attended a Faith Leader's Breakfast event earlier in the day.

MPO Eggers provided holiday shopping safety tips to include use of Amazon lock boxes, asking neighbor to keep an eye out for package deliveries, and installation of camera systems to deter would-be thieves. She encouraged shoppers to be aware of their environment and noted there is safety in numbers. As a common-sense tip, she encouraged shoppers to park in well lit spaces and to be aware of your surrounding while dropping off packages to your car.

As a matter of practice, MPO Eggers encouraged members to use the Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency number (703) 691-2131 if they see something suspicious. There is no harm in calling this number when residents notice a suspicious person or vehicle. MPO Eggers noted the Fairfax County Police cruiser is a deterrent. MPO Eggers gave advice on use of pepper spray, personal alarms, and tasers. She also provided warning about the danger of phone cases that have credit card holders. While chips in credit cards have greatly decreased credit card fraud, bad people can still exploit credit cards in phone cases. MPO Eggers warned women that wearing a purse around the neck can be dangerous as it potentially allows someone to pull you to the ground. She encouraged men to move wallets from back to front pocket for increased safety.

CPT Gregory Fried joined the meeting and took questions from the membership. CPT Fried noted he took command of Franconia Station at the end of September. He wants to hear from residents about what Franconia Station is doing well and what they are not doing well.

CPT Fried noted that crime in Fairfax County is down percent, but he remains concerned about traffic safety, burglaries, and officer wellness issues. He indicated he is trying to build up the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and encouraged residents to attend these monthly meetings which talk about crime. CAC meetings occur on third Wednesday each month at 7pm. He also encouraged citizens who want to become more involved with Fairfax County Police to consider joining the Auxiliary Police force which assist in traffic enforcement and event support.

CPT Fried spoke briefly about new precinct building that is being planned for 2022. He noted the current precinct building opened in 1990 and is showing its age. The new precinct will be located in Kingstowne in vicinity of the Chilis restaurant near Manchester Blvd. CPT Fried indicated the Lee District Supervisor's office will be located in the precinct along with a library.

CPT Fried also informed the membership about a new portal for residents to report suspicious, criminal or terrorist activity. The iWatchNova app allows residents to report questionable activity by uploading photos and details. The information goes to the Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center which evaluates the information. CPT Fried indicated it is easy to register for the app and add information. The app allows users to have the ability to remain anonymous and it is free on IOS and Android.

CPT Fried also noted Fairfax County Police Department News can be found at [fcpdnews.wordpress.com](http://fcpdnews.wordpress.com). This site is the official news and information site for the Fairfax County Police Department. CPT Fried also noted Fairfax County maintains a site ([crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com)) that documents reported crime data within Fairfax County. This site covers crime committed in the country over the past seven days down into specific districts by street.

Members asked CPT Fried if local hotels were presenting any unique challenges regarding crime. CPT Fried indicated the hotels do not present any out of the ordinary challenges. Hotels are occasionally used for drug activity, prostitution, human trafficking and electronic crimes.

Responding to a question about gang activity, CPT Fried indicated there have been no recent high-profile crimes. Fairfax County Police have been making a deliberate and direct effort to confront gangs and knock that activity down. CPT Fried indicated that Fairfax County has a School Resource Officer (SRO) in each middle and high school. The goal is for SROs to expose kids to law enforcement early to build a positive foundation for the future.

CPT Fried indicated Fairfax County has an online portal to report graffiti and speeding.

Finally, CPT Fried noted the demand for Fairfax County Police Officers is up, but recruiting is down. The current recruit fill rate is 95 percent.

The meeting adjourned at 2100.