

SCA President's Column

Rick Gonzalez, Acting President
May/June 2009

Great Caesar's Ghost! It's almost summer again in our Springfield community! It seems like only yesterday we were enjoying the end-of-year Holidays. Since then, the Springfield Civic Association has seen an acting President assume office, the weather warm up, and neighbors doing yard work!

In the issue of the last newsletter, I told you how much was happening in Springfield. In a similar vein, I wanted to share some additional things you may find of interest. For example, the Washington Post recently reported that the needed \$61 million for the Fairfax County Parkway extension is kicking in. And did you know that Lorton is being considered as a possible location for an equestrian center according to the non-profit organization Fairfax4Horses?

There has also been much SCA activity over the past two months. SCA members have been involved in the following:

- Sent alerts due to the appearance of a rabid raccoon in our neighborhood.
- Advocated for a family-oriented community by speaking out regarding Paper Moon.
- Attended public hearings regarding the house at the intersection of Highland and Amherst.
- Produced the Springfield Community Handbook, and sought additional funds to expand the distribution of the Handbook.
- Held two membership meetings, and the list goes on.

I also wanted to take a moment to turn the spotlight on some members of our board and community neighbors for their hard work, passion, and efforts on behalf of the Springfield Civic Association and the Springfield community.

- **Tawny Hammond** – Even after her transfer from Lake Accotink Park to Frying Pan Park in western Fairfax, she still has time (how, I don't know) to be actively involved with SCA. Her stamina, passion, and drive are unmatched in dealing with SCA issues, working with local agencies on behalf of the SCA in addressing Springfield issues, handling emergencies, and welcoming neighbors to her home. Even during her hiatus from the SCA, she continues to be involved in SCA matters. Tawny has worked tirelessly on our behalf in planning member meetings, arranging for speakers, leading board meetings, facilitating member meetings, representing the SCA at other meetings, advocating for the Springfield community, collaborating with local groups to plan Springfield Days, engaging in neighbor-to-neighbor outreach efforts, and updating membership lists. I believe this represents only a fraction of all that Tawny has accomplished over the years as SCA's President!
- **Diane Boughton** – Our SCA volunteer continues to address issues that affect quality of life and safety in our community, and advocates for the betterment of the Springfield residential and business community.
- **Pat Childers** – Funded by *Trips for Kids*, Pat conducted a travel survey of parents at Lynbrook elementary school to determine safety factors of children traveling to and from school. The ultimate goal is to apply for a grant with the National Center for Safe Routes to School, which provides funding through programs for transportation-related outreach, enforcement, and infrastructure such as traffic calming and speed reduction improvements.
- **Bill Gaylord** – (a.k.a. the man with the box) Has diligently held on to, kept accounting of, and maintained the balances of our financials as our fearless Treasurer.

- **Maureen Gibson** – Neighborhood Watch captain, keeps the network of zone captains informed and works with other Springfield zone coordinators to keep our community safe!
- **Loida Gonzalez** – Spearheaded the Springfield Community Handbook and a grant application to Fairfax County to fund it, as well as attempted a separate grant proposal for funding additional distributions.
- **Christina Manning** – Our neighbor on the ‘inside’ is not only a member of the SCA but also on Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay’s staff. She has kept us abreast of, and maintained an open line of communication with, our local government on many of the issues important to you.
- **Lee Paulson** – The “Newsletter” queen! The SCA newsletter takes a great deal of work chasing down writers, developing the master newsletter, getting the newsletter produced, and finally distributing the newsletter. This job alone constitutes multiple jobs, but somehow Lee manages to get the newsletter out without fail for the membership.
- **Yasuko Riggs** – Our ‘webmaster extraordinaire’ has single-handedly designed, developed, implemented, maintained, and managed one of the best civic association websites found on the web today!
- **Bruce Waggoner** – Supported Bob Davis as the lead in voicing community concerns before the Fairfax County’s Board of Zoning Appeals regarding the property at 5901 Amherst Avenue. He has also initiated discussions and planning for a 2010 Springfield Days road race, and is leading this year’s race out of South Run.

The folks above, and others who may have been inadvertently missed in this newsletter, have been working diligently to provide and share information vital to the Springfield community’s interest.

At the May meeting, the Springfield community will have an opportunity to thank these folks in various ways. Please be sure to take a moment to thank these folks for the work they are doing on your behalf. You too can contribute by participating even in the smallest of ways and however you can, in areas of interest and expertise, to contribute to the community in which you live. You also have the power to influence and persuade neighbors (or yourself) to get interested, involved, and become active in our community – start with attending SCA meetings more often. Finally, you can actively participate by filling a board or chair position with the Springfield Civic Association. Remember, all positions are up for election this May!

I have been and continue to be proud of SCA as an organization, its leadership, the active members, and you, the neighbors it represents and serves. SCA has come a long way and has seen many changes over the past decades since its founding in 1953. I hope you will join us in making the next 50 years as great as the first. Although I am not throwing my hat in the ring for a Board position of SCA, I plan to continue serving in a support capacity.

Happy Spring!

Rick Gonzalez

Acting President

