

September 2021

Volume 38, Issue 1

SCA Board of Directors

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**Springfield Reporter**



# Springfield Civic Association

## *President's Message—Gail Nittle*



Welcome back! Our September 21<sup>st</sup> Evening of Celebration meeting will begin earlier than usual - at **7 pm** - in the larger parking lot of Grace Church (7434 Bath Street, Springfield) and will feature music by the Mt. Vernon Community Band and celebrations! Please park in the smaller parking lot (corner of Grace and Bath) or on the street. Bring your own chair and join us as the Mt. Vernon Community Band helps us celebrate original owners/90+ year olds birthdays/ community anniversaries: 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Crestwood Construction Co. beginning construction in Crestwood (April 2021), 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Edward R. Carr purchasing the land in 1946 (December 2021), and the 68<sup>th</sup> birthday of the SCA (February 1953). We also plan to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of original Crestwood owner Walter Hammersley and mark the passing of a great lady, Marion Frieswyk, who would have turned 100 on September 17<sup>th</sup> but passed on August 26<sup>th</sup> and original Crestwood owner Joe Cassano who passed away at 101 in January 2021.



Walter Hammersley



Mrs. Frieswyk, Supervisor Rodney Lusk, and Gail Nittle

We'll try to give you updates at the September meeting. It's easy and understandable to look around and wonder if anything is really being done to address the concerns we have. Let me assure you that the SCA is almost daily involved in working on solutions! It takes time and some things have many "moving parts"! The SCA Board has a quarterly meeting with Supervisor Lusk where we discuss the issues. Just recently, the dumping at the Concord Center and in our neighborhood was brought to our attention. We have connected with the property owner, the police and the Supervisor's Office staff. It has been cleaned up but it is an an-going problem and not just here in Springfield – but all over! If you see a problem, report it to the appropriate County office or Aaron Campbell ([aaron.compbell@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:aaron.compbell@fairfaxcounty.gov)) of Supervisor Lusk's office and the SCA at [springfieldcivic@yahoo.com](mailto:springfieldcivic@yahoo.com) We are working for our community and your support/membership in the SCA help to make the case and get results.

Come and join us! If you know any original owners of homes in Crestwood or Lynbrook, please let us know by emailing us at [springfieldcivic@yahoo.com](mailto:springfieldcivic@yahoo.com). This is also a great opportunity to join the SCA for the year!

See you there,  
~Gail

**September Meeting**  
**Sept 21, 2021**  
**7:00 pm**

**Grace Presbyterian Church Parking Lot**  
**7434 Bath Street**

**Topic:**  
**So Much to Celebrate!**

## *Marion Frieswyk, 1921-2021, Original OSS Member*

Marion A. Frieswyk passed away Thursday, August 26, 2021 in Fairfax, VA after a brief illness. She is preceded in death by her husband, Henry Frieswyk; her son, Henry Frieswyk, Jr.; her daughter-in-law, Consquella Frieswyk, and her parents, Lynn and Ethelind Armstrong. She is survived by her children, Sandra, David (Barbara), and Susan Frieswyk; daughter-in-law, Lois Frieswyk; grandchildren, Matthew (Tania), Nathan (Devon), and Jonathan Frieswyk; great-grandson, Holden Henry Frieswyk, and a host of loving nieces and nephews.

Born and raised in Hamilton, New York, Marion attended the State University of New York (SUNY) Potsdam, where she received a degree in education with an interest in Geography. At the recommendation of her Geography professor, she then enrolled in a summer program in War Studies at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts, designed to train students in subjects related to geography that would be useful during WWII. The program consisted of a series of week-long courses taught by experts in each field. A visiting professor noticed that Marion, along with co-student Henry Frieswyk, showed a talent for Cartography. He asked both to immediately leave the program, move to Washington, DC, and work for him at the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), in their newly formed mapping division. Henry and Marion worked together and eventually married in 1943. Both stayed with the Cartography Division through the end of the war and beyond, as it transitioned to the State Department when OSS was disbanded at the end of the war, and again as it transitioned to the newly created Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in 1947. Marion remained at CIA until the mid-1950s. Henry stayed until 1980 when he retired after serving as the Director of the Cartography Division. The Cartography Center, as it is now known, recently celebrated 75 years of continuous operation, to which Marion was invited and recognized as the last surviving member of the original OSS cartography group.

After leaving government service, Marion continued to make important contributions by raising a family, working in the local community, and working in the local school system. Marion worked closely with the local Boy Scout troop and raised two Eagle Scouts. She worked as a substitute teacher, served on the PTA, of which she was a lifetime member, volunteered to establish the school library at the newly opened elementary school, and worked closely with school administrators whenever the need arose. She was active in her church, shepherding her husband and children to and from choir rehearsals and using her excellent sewing skills to produce many costumes for the church's Gilbert and Sullivan troupe.

A beloved matriarch of both the Frieswyk and Armstrong families, Marion helped raise several generations of children and continued to provide them with guidance and support into adulthood. A popular program she and Henry ran was to invite nieces and nephews to visit Washington, DC, for a week between their junior and senior years in high school, during which she gave them the "grand tour" of all the monuments and experiences available there. She wasn't happy until they were completely exhausted! After Henry's death in 1997, she moved to Virginia where she made many new friends and continued to serve the community in many ways.

Relatives and friends may call at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA on Friday, September 17, 2021



Mrs. Frieswyk at the OSS celebration

## *Joseph Cassano, 1919-2021, Original Crestwood Homeowner*

Joseph Michael Cassano passed peacefully on January 17, 2021 in Fairfax County, VA. He was born in Hazleton, PA and had 4 siblings. He was a veteran of WW2 serving in the Army in the Philippines and New Guinea. After the war he resided in Washington, DC, and met his wife, Emily (who preceded him in death in 2006). They had 3 children, and 2 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren. Joseph worked as CPA and became partner in the Grossberg Company, a public accounting firm, retiring in 1985. In retirement, he worked for the Catholic organization, Ambassadors of Mary. He was very proud and happy to have met Mother Teresa when she was visiting her convent in Washington, DC. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus Catholic organization. He will be missed very much by all.

Joe purchased one of the first houses built on Craig Street where he remained his entire life. He loved telling stories, especially how he had to wait two years before a pool membership opened up. He maintained that membership throughout his life, and was a treasured friend of Springfield Swim and Racquet.



Mr. and Mrs. Cassano with Mother Teresa, 1999

## *Tribute and News From FLAP (Friends of Lake Accotink Park)*

### **DICK SARGENT**

#### **TRIBUTE TO LONG TIME COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER**

**WHEN:** Saturday 18 Sept 2021

**TIME:** 11:00 am – 12:30 (lunch provided)

**WHERE:** McLaren-Sargent Pavilion (Adjacent to LAP Heming parking lot)

Our community lost one of its biggest champions, when Richard ("Dick") Sargent passed away on Saturday November 28, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Martha, who was also an important figure in the Ravensworth Farm community. Dick and Martha were original owners in Ravensworth Farm; buying their home in 1963

Dick and Martha were the cornerstone of our community and their impact remained strong long after they had moved away (downsizing according to Dick), He rallied the Ravensworth Farm Community from the first year they moved in and was instrumental in organizing residents and volunteers to help care for all aspects of Lake Accotink Park. His service to our community ranged from serving on the original RFCA Board to Neighborhood Watch, Golden Ravens, RF-Elementary School, Parks, and Legislative.

All residents received "that call" from Dick encouraging them to volunteer to better our community. We recall our fond memories of reporting to Dick in the early morning hours at the shores of Lake Accotink with trash bags in hand for clean-up duty. Dick also provided lessons on how to operate the CB Radio for the Ravensworth Farm Neighborhood Watch Patrols (Fri-Sun). As these patrols were from 6pm to 6am, Dick would check on us throughout the night. He and Martha kindly invited us to stop by and pick up a cup of hot coffee to help us stay alert during our patrol.

Dick's dedication was so strong to Lake Accotink Park, that on September 11, 1999 the then Braddock Supervisor Sharon Bulova (later Chairman Fairfax County) lead the dedication of the McLaren-Sargent Pavilion partly in his honor. At that time, Supervisor Bulova noted Dick had not only volunteered within the Ravensworth Farm Community for over twenty-one years (at the time of the dedication – thirty years overall), but he had also worked tirelessly with the scouts and spearheaded Accotink Lake clean-up campaigns. He served on the Braddock District Park Advisory Committee, and was the RFCA Parks and Recreation Standing Committee Chair (the liaison with FCPA and LAP). The Sargents' indelible dedication to our Community was also a key factor in this honor..There is no question the Sargents emulated the C – Community and Civic. They will be missed but never forgotten as their work to make our community a safe, clean and beautiful environment in which to raise our families is evident every day.

#### **INTERMENT OF DICK SARGENT**

All questions: [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org).

**WHEN:** Friday 17 Sept 2021; **TIME:** 12:30 (service starts at 1 pm)

**WHERE:** Old Post Chapel on the Fort Myers (adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery)

Enter through the Hatfield gate.

The service will last about 20 minutes, and we will all then be escorted out, the casket will be loaded on the horse drawn caisson, and we will all follow in cars to the grave site, where there will be a military band, a bugler, and a 21 gun salute. [Cemetery Instructions](#)

#### **MONTHLY FLAP LAKE ACCOTINK PARK CLEAN-UP**

**WHEN:** 12 Sept ; **TIME:** 8am (Set-Up) 9am – 12pm

**LOCATION:** Lake Accotink Marina

Pick up your gloves, FLAP information, clean-up bags, tools, maps and more. You will also be loaned a FLAP Safety Vest - Volunteer 4 times and receive Your Very OWN Safety Vest to personalize.

Register: [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization\\_details/71653](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization_details/71653)ACTIVITIES: Pick-up trash bags with debris carelessly dumped, dropped and forgotten. Dog Waste Stations (refill, check stations), vines and more. Questions: [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)

#### **CARING FOR THE POLLINATOR GARDEN**

**WHEN:** 12 September (2nd Sun of every Month) **TIME:**

10:30am **WHERE:** Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden - Adjacent to the Marina. **ACTIVITY:** Work alongside of our experts as they care for the Pollinator Plants , Watering, Clean-Up . We'll provide the tools, gloves or you can bring your own. Register at:

[https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp\\_details/186905](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/186905)

#### **EXPLORING THE POLLINATOR GARDEN**

**WHEN:** 12 Sept (2nd Sun of every Month); **TIME:** 10:30am

**WHERE:** Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden - Adjacent to the Marina.

**ACTIVITY:** Our experts will guide you through the Pollinators and Pollinator Plants, Starting and maintaining your own (any size) Pollinator Garden.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-158891973169>

#### **FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK BOARD POSITIONS OPEN-**

**FLAP:** Help us make a difference for about an hour a month.

Send email to [Contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:Contact@flapaccotink.org)

**DONATE TO FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK** - FLAP On-line at [www.flapaccotink.org](http://www.flapaccotink.org) or mail to FLAP P.O. Box 1203 Springfield VA 22151

#### **STAY IN CONTACT**

Stay In Contact: To text sign-up for monthly news, text FLAP to 22828 Please send questions, comments, suggestions, articles to: [communications@flapaccotink.org](mailto:communications@flapaccotink.org) Nicole Wargel, FLAP Communications Director



## ECHO



Are you eager to use your time and talents to help families in our community who are struggling with basic needs? ECHO has a few key volunteer positions opening, and we want to fill them with people who are friendly, kind and have positive attitudes. To find out more about the important positions described below, e-mail Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

tor@echo-inc.org.

There is a vital need for volunteers who speak Spanish and could commit one morning a week to interview people who request assistance. New volunteers in this position will work with experienced volunteers until they are confident in the process.

If you enjoy working with teens and are available many Wednesday evenings during the school year from 7:00 to 9:00, please consider helping with our Teen Program. You would work with another adult volunteer to supervise a team of teens as they tackle various tasks related to organizing donated items.

A person, or team of several people with good organizational and decision making skills will be needed to chair ECHO's clothing operation as the current co-chairs retire. Transitional training will be provided. The chair(s) will work with the many, many wonderful ECHO volunteers who assess and organize clothing donations and assist clients in finding the clothing they need for their families.

As ECHO begins to accept donations of adult clothing and household goods, it might be helpful to inform our community of the things we cannot accept. Sometimes donors are annoyed because we turn away some things they bring to us; but donors should understand that there are limitations of space and our ability to use particular items. The complete lists of things that ECHO cannot accept and that ECHO can accept is on our website, [www.echo-inc.org](http://www.echo-inc.org), under the tab "Donate Goods." There is also a list of charitable organizations that might be able to use what we cannot. Among the things we ask donors not to bring to ECHO are: yard sale leftovers; broken or dirty items; adult books, magazines or encyclopedias; adult furniture or major

appliances; CPAP machines; exercise equipment; typewriters; printers, routers, scanners, and computer CRT monitors. Also, in order to insure the safety of our clients, our Food Room must discard food donations that have been opened or re-packaged from the original, sealed packaging. While ECHO needs common over-the-counter medicines such as aspirin, we cannot use vitamins, herbal remedies, protein supplements, etc.

The Fairfax County government is once again supporting Stuff the Bus events on September 11 and October 9 to collect non-perishable food donations at various locations that will be announced later. One or two of these locations will be bringing the food to ECHO. Please look for more information on the Fairfax County government website, searching "Stuff the Bus." In the meantime, ECHO needs donations of canned tomatoes, canned meats, cooking oil and tortillas. ECHO's Clothing Department needs polar fleece outerwear and sweatshirts in children's sizes 8 to 18 as well as athletic shoes in men's sizes 7 and 8. ECHO is open to accept donations Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00. Please drive to the west side of the building and stop at the Donation Door where volunteers will assist with your donation and offer written receipts.

### Upcoming Dates to Note

#### September 2-3 - Clothing changeover to Fall/Winter

September 6 - Closed for Labor Day  
September 20 - Board of Directors Meet  
October 11- Closed for Columbus Day  
October 18 - Executive Committee Meeting

#### Congregational Food Drives

September - Burke Presbyterian, St. Andrews Episcopal, Rolling Valley LDS  
October - First Baptist Springfield, St. Mark's Lutheran

**For more information about ECHO on the following topics, please click the links to our website:**

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Donate Money](#)

[Needed School Supplies](#)

[Tips on Holding a Donation Drive](#)

[ECHO's Amazon Wishlist](#)



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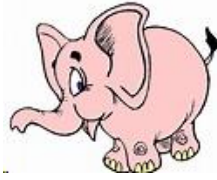


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## The Woman's Club of Springfield

Our Club members stayed busy over the summer with a couple of Arts and Crafts workshops and also running our Pink Elephant Shop.



Sales at the Pink Elephant have picked up and we were able to make a donation to "Trails for Youth" and a local church to support their Backpack Program. We are also continuing our commitment to our Layette Program that supports Fairfax and Alexandria Hospitals. Deliveries will be made in the early Fall.

Things at the Pink Elephant Shop have changed slightly. We are now open on Thursdays for shopping only (no consignments). We remain closed on Monday, Friday and Sunday. Our daily hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday, we take only fourteen (14) consignments on a first come, first served basis. Consignors get in line as early as an hour before we open and must sign in. We are still requiring that our customers and consignors use masks while in our Shop. If you are planning to bring in a consignment, be sure to check our website ([www.womansclubofspringfield.org](http://www.womansclubofspringfield.org)) or the Shop's Facebook page. Things are often restricted on a temporary basis, so make sure we are taking what you want to sell.

Our Club is looking forward to finally meeting in person again on September 14<sup>th</sup> at a place to be determined. If you are interested in attending a meeting to see what we are all about, please contact our Membership Chairman, Melody Corrigan. Her telephone number is 757/286-2426. Her e-mail address is [melmoz@hotmail.com](mailto:melmoz@hotmail.com). We are actively seeking new members to join our Club and would welcome anyone who is interested.

## Lewis High School PTSA



The John R. Lewis High School PTSA supports our students, school, and community by involving families directly. We provide volunteer and financial support to Lewis High School teachers and staff to benefit the community. All families should join the PTSA for our students. Together, we can help Lewis HS students thrive!

Visit: <https://sites.google.com/lewishspts.org/home> to learn about joining the PTSA, how you can support by donating time or money, and our All-Night Grad Celebration.

**Fall 2021 General Membership meetings:** we'll meet virtually on: September 15, October 20, and November 17. Reach us at [admin@lewishspts.org](mailto:admin@lewishspts.org), on Twitter [@LewisHSPTSA](https://twitter.com/LewisHSPTSA), or our [web-site](#).

ATTENTION salons, clothiers, restaurants, florists & other **local businesses - Do you want to target Prom 2022?** The Lewis PTSA is creating an advertising booklet for over 2600 Springfield-area students and their families. Go to our website to learn more about this great opportunity to highlight your business directly to the class of 2022, support the All-Night Grad Celebration, and get a tax-deductible donation!

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**NO JOB IS TOO SMALL FOR US**

## *Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Update*

### **Book Donations Resume!**

YAY, finally book donations will resume on September 7th! 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.

### **Richard Byrd Library hours:**

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

### **Curbside Services Continue to be Offered**

Mon – Sat, 10am – 4pm

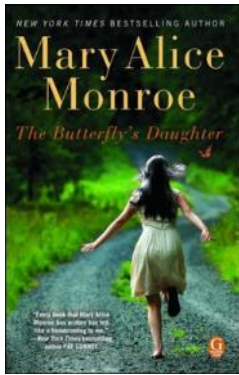
### **Branches Accepting Credit/Debit Cards**

The Friends' Daily Sale area has re-opened in its usual location behind the Checkout Desk. Same amazing bargain prices! Stop by to find your next great read! During the national coin shortage, the library is able to accept only credit/debit payments for fines and fees, donations, and the purchase of materials such as used books.

### **Book Review: *The Butterfly's Daughter***

**By Judy Perry**

I really enjoyed this story! Mary Alice Monroe's novel of self-discovery follows four women as they follow the migration of monarch butterflies to Mexico.



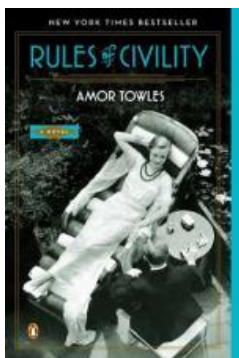
The adventure begins when 21-year-old Luz Avila departs her Wisconsin home in an old VW Bug to fulfill a promise to her beloved grandmother (who died before they could begin the road trip) to return to the family's home village in the mountains of Mexico. Sadly, Luz is delivering her abuela's ashes. Along the way she overcomes multiple challenges and collects an eclectic group of women (Ofelia, Stacie and Margaret), each of them on their own very different life journey. This novel is ultimately about life's ever changing forward movement...the journey through it...change, perseverance, adventure, growth, forgiveness, finding your way. Luz's discoveries about her family background help her figure out who she is and who she wants to be. The travelers learn from the butterflies; Monroe includes wonderful details about the yearly monarch migration.

This is a leisurely read that grabbed me from the beginning (I learned about monarch butterflies and a few Spanish words too!). All the characters are engaging and likeable, you'll be rooting for their success! There are some challenging family dynamics and a huge family secret but it's a great adventure

with women supporting women.

### **Book Review: *Rules of Civility***

**by Janet Cameron**



The title of this novel is based on a list of 110 maxims copied out by the teenaged George Washington and widely seen as formative principles of the first president's character. *The Rules of Civility* is also the title of a small publication detailing the young Washington's carefully copied maxims and a prized possession of one the novel's principal characters, Tinker Grey.

This is a story of what it was like to be young and enjoying the first taste of adult independence in New York City during the last years before the United States joined the Second World War. The novel's heroine is Katya, who has reinvented herself as Katey. Although her independence was not gained by choice, she has been orphaned by the death of her father, she has still embraced it. By contrast her roommate and partner in crime, the beautiful Evelyn, has escaped a gilded (but what she regards as stultifying) future as a debutante in a distant Midwest town in favor of adventure in the big city. Katey and Eve both support their New York exploits with honest work, Katey in a highly regimented typing pool, but both have bigger dreams which throughout the course of the novel they are not afraid to pursue.

At a jazz bar on New Year's Eve 1937, Katey and Eve befriend Tinker Grey, a handsome, well-dressed, and intriguing young man who seems to have it all. The three come to spend a lot of time together and the young women meet all his well-connected friends while clubbing and attending gatherings at Tinker's well-appointed apartment. Most of those in Tinker's circle are young successful people, but there are two notable exceptions: Anne Grandyn, an older (but nonetheless very attractive) woman who is introduced variously as his godmother and as a client, and Tinker's brother, Hank, whose lifestyle is notably and inexplicably more modest. Bit by bit Katey and Eve learn small details about Tinker but there is always much that is still enigmatic about him. Nothing is quite what it seems, but over time Katey does discover the facts about Tinker's life, and it turns out there were things she did not know even about her friend Eve.

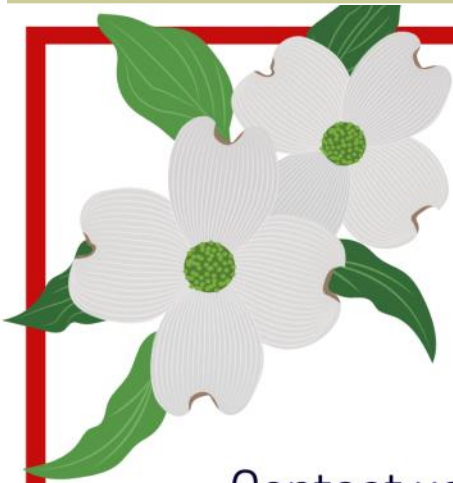
The characters and their intrigues draw readers into this novel and keep us in their grip until its closing page. As if that were not enough, Amor Towles' mellifluous prose is always a delight, and it certainly does not disappoint this time as he describes both the luxurious settings of the parties and gatherings of the well-heeled, and the grittiness of New York's dockland and dreary cheap

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# Springfield Art Guild



**PLEASE JOIN THE SPRINGFIELD ART GUILD FOR OUR VIRTUAL 2021 GUEST SPEAKER SERIES!!**

**\* OCT 13**

We hold our Monthly meetings on Zoom the 2nd Wed of each month at 7:00 p.m. **All are welcome**, and we'd love to have you join us!!!!

**Virtual Monthly Meetings:** SAG's board is lining up great Guest Speakers who will bring their art into your homes until we can meet in person again.

**6:45 p.m.** Zoom "doors" open - Please join us ahead of the program.

**7:00PM:** The Acting President will conduct a short business meeting **Immediately** following conclusion of the business meeting, **the guest speaker** will begin her presentation

**Zoom:** If you don't have an account you can sign up for **FREE** at <https://zoom.us/>. If you haven't participated in a Zoom meeting it's really easy on your computers or tablets. Please contact Elaine Sevy, SAG board member at [Yorkiemum.sevy95@gmail.com](mailto:Yorkiemum.sevy95@gmail.com) for the Zoom link to our programs.

Our Guest Speaker for October is Paper Artist Rosa Leff "Baltimore artist Rosa Leff has what are called, in the world of culinary competition, knife skills."

-Mark Jenkins, The Washington Post

In her own words: "Between painting alongside my grandmother and watching my father build reproduction antique furniture, I grew up seeing no distinction between fine art and craft. What mattered was that things were made by hand and done well. It is with that in mind that I create each of my hand cut paper pieces. I'll share how I stumbled my way into becoming a papercutter and how being self-taught helped me develop my unique style.

"I decided to try exhibiting my work back in 2016 and had my first small group show just 3 months later. I've managed to participate in more than 50 group shows since then and I've been awarded 12 solo exhibits in the past 4 years. Most of that was done while working a fulltime job. To say I am a workaholic

is an understatement. I'll share the challenges of trying to find balance while continually trying to outdo myself and of course, where my knives and I are headed next. (Hint: It's Mexico!) Perhaps most importantly, I'll talk about the impact creative communities have had on my work and career. Every artist needs a tribe!"

Website: [www.rosaleff.com](http://www.rosaleff.com)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rosaleff/?hl=en>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rosaleff>



SAG does not know when Grace Church will be reopening or we will be able to have in-person meetings or events. The board is working on ideas and events to inspire all of our members and guests to continue their art through online meetings, our newsletter, our new website at [www.springfieldartguild.org](http://www.springfieldartguild.org), Facebook and online events as we explore ways to inspire your creativity.

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## Back to School Safety Tips from FCPD

In-person learning in Fairfax County schools is back! The 2021-2022 school year started August 23rd. Here are some important safety reminders as school buses and kids will be out and about after a year of virtual learning. Please remember, it is reckless driving, a criminal offense, if you pass a stopped school bus unloading children. It is not worth risking the safety and lives of others to get to your destination a few seconds faster.

**DRIVERS, make travel safer for everyone by following these practices:**

**When backing out** of a driveway or garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.

**When driving in neighborhood school zones,** watch out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking of getting there safely.

**Slow down.** Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in neighborhood. -Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.

Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

**Learn and obey** the school bus laws as well as the flashing signal light system:

**Yellow flashing** - the bus is preparing to stop to load or unload children. Motorists should slow down and prepare to

stop their vehicles.

**Red flashing** lights and extended stop arms - the bus has stopped and children are getting on or off. Motorists must stop their cars and wait until the red lights stop flashing, the extended stop-arm is withdrawn, and the bus begins moving.

**PARENTS & GUARDIANS, Teach your child bus stop safety:**

**Safety While Waiting:** Your child should arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Show your child where to wait for the bus - at least three giant steps (six feet) away from the curb. Remind your child that the bus stop is not a place to run or play.

**Getting On and Off Safely:** When the school bus arrives, your child should wait until the bus comes to a complete stop, the door opens, and the driver says it's okay before approaching the bus door. Your child should use the handrails to avoid falling.

**Caution Around the Bus:** Your child should never walk behind a school bus. If your child must cross the street in front of the bus, tell him/her to walk on a sidewalk or along the side of the street to a place at least five giant steps (10 feet) in front of the bus before crossing. Your child should also make eye contact with the bus driver before crossing to make sure the driver can see him/her. If your child drops something near the school bus, like a ball or book, the safest thing is for your child to tell the bus driver right away. Your child should not try to pick up the item, because the driver might not be able to see him/her.



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## Trails for Youth—Taking it to the Streets

If you live on Dickenson, Mendota, Highland, Atteentee or a half dozen other SCA streets you may have noticed a colorful parade of youth bicycle riders cruising through on Tuesday evenings around 6:00 pm.

Due to the rain and wet trails, TYO has created an on road 5-mile training loop for the youth on their team that guides them safely (i.e. all right turns) through our neighborhood, onto the CCT to Lake Accotink and back to Brookfield park. This ride provides the kids with some endurance training, especially the uphill on Loretto, while the pumptrack helps them improve their skills. Many of the kids don't even own the bikes they are riding and this will be their first foray into bicycle racing. Avid followers of TYO may recall that several of the SCA area resident youth have participated in this program over the past couple decades and we have even had two state champions from our very own neighborhoods. Shout out to Phyllis Weeks and Kat Sejas! So if you see the team riding by, wave and cheer them on, and wish them luck.

### Safe Routes to School

As our kids return to Crestwood, and Lynbrook for school, remember many of them will be walking and biking to school. It's important that they do so safely and it's important that adults in the neighborhood also know how to drive safely within areas where kids are walking and biking to school. Luckily youth from the SCA area created a great video on this topic. So please – [Listen, Learn, and Lead by Example and watch the video](#). See, if you recognize any of the youth. Here's a hint, most of them are in college now. See you on the trail!



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## Richard Byrd Library

### Greetings from Richard Byrd Library!

As we move into fall, not many changes on the library horizon. Much of our programming will remain online via Zoom with a few in-person programs. Meeting rooms are available to the public once again but with limited capacities. Groups are responsible for abiding by all COVID-related safety precautions while in the library and its meeting rooms. All employees and visitors – regardless of vaccination status – are required to wear a mask while inside all Fairfax County facilities to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

### Upcoming in-person Programs at Richard Byrd:

- Free Hearing and Vision Testing with the Lions Club- Wednesday, September 8 1-3pm (Adults)
- Afternoon Book Club: 1:30pm, (Adults)
  - o The Honey Bus by Meredith May-September 9
  - o The Color of Air by Gail Tsukiyama- October 14
- Polish Conversation Group every Tuesday starting Sept 14.
  - o10:00 beginner, 11:00am advanced (Adults)
- National Capital Trackers Train Exhibit: October 1 & 2 10am -5:30pm (Families)

### Virtual Programs Facilitated by Richard Byrd Staff and Volunteers:

- English Conversation Group – Tuesdays, 6-7pm (Adults)
- Citizenship Game Show- Monday, September 13, 7-8:30pm (Adults)
- Burke Historical Society: Ghosts, Goons and a Bunyanman- Monday, October 25 7pm (Teens and Adults)

Virtual programs require registration. Search the events calendar using the date of the program or the program title. Please check the FCPL website ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)) for more library events.

We've been busy creating fun **Take & Make craft kits for kids and adults**. Stop by and pick one up!



### Take and Make Crafts!

Our book concierge selection service has a new name! Library to Go- hand-picked for pick-up. The pilot program was a success so the service will be expanded across all Fairfax County Public Libraries in September. Customers can submit an online form requesting a certain number of items and library staff select materials based on the information submitted. Once selected the items go on hold for the customer. You can access the form for the service on Richard Byrd Library's website:

[Richard Byrd Library | Library \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](http://RichardByrdLibrary|Library(fairfaxcounty.gov))



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## History of Springfield

By Robyn Carter

The Post World War Two History of Developed Springfield – Part 6.

Hello again Springfielders! As our summer season is winding down, the infamous cicadas have left the area for the long wait until their next invasion, and we look forward to the cooler temperatures of the fall season, my thoughts turn to the families beginning to gear up for another school year that will be here before we know it.

In the early days of Springfield's suburban development, along with the usual concerns about obtaining school supplies (which were challenge enough with there not being well stocked local stores in Springfield yet) came the worries of where the fast growing numbers of Springfield children would attend classes. Although in his pre-planning, Mr. Carr did set aside property for the schools, it was not in his purview to build them since that was within the powers of The Fairfax County School Board. The lightning fast growth of both the number of children, thanks to the Baby Boom and the tremendous suburban housing growth in the county, the board members were struggling with raising the needed funds to buy land, plan and build new schools, staff and supply them as well as provide transportation. Since I do not pretend to deeply understand the mindset of the various members of the board of that time, it does occur to me through reading their meeting minutes and many newspaper articles of the time that they were extremely busy with floating bonds, borrowing funds from the Federal Government and re-deploying their own financial resources to cover all the bases. The process of building a school took time and time was something they didn't have a great deal of.

In the first year of growth (1952-53) many early students were crammed into the small Franconia School that was never designed for more than the rural population of the Franconia area when it was built in 1939, let alone a fast flood of new kids from the Springfield area. There were no middle/intermediate schools (or Junior High, if you are of a certain age group) in the county until 1960 so "Grammar Schools" (aka Elementary schools) handled kids from 1st grade up to 7th, and then they would enter high school at grade 8. There was no public kindergarten until the mid to late 1960s. The school board had been aware of Mr. Carr's plans to develop the Springfield area since 1948, when he made them aware of what was coming, but the county wasn't ready to spend tons of money for new schools with no solid guarantee that Carr's plan would pan out, so they had to take the chance to wait until there was actual substantial growth before moving towards Springfield school construction.

It didn't take long before they saw the need even before the first model homes were constructed because there was already deliberation into building a new school that would eventually become "Garfield School" as early as 1949-50.

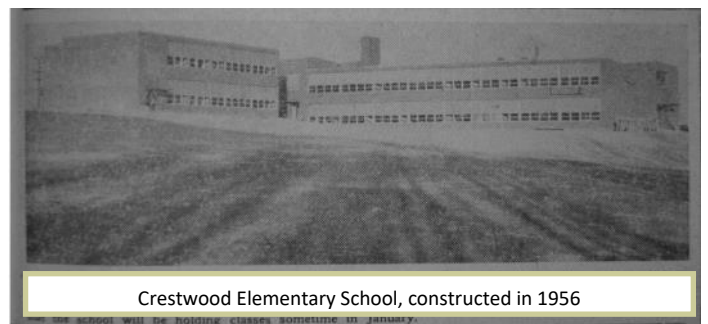
The first relief for the pre-high school population came on September 8, 1953 when Garfield opened with only 8 classrooms completed and 525 expected students. While another 8 class-



Garfield School as of July 1953 as seen in that month's edition of The Springfield Independent

rooms were under construction, some classes had to be held in the auditorium until they were finished. The proposed school was at times referred to as the "Simms School" and the "Springfield School" until a school board meeting on January 6th, 1953 officially changed it to the now familiar name.

With the rapid growth of the Springfield area in the years 1953, 54 and 55, Garfield was soon overwhelmed and classroom spaces had to be rented from The Springfield Methodist Church starting with the school year 1955-56. There was also the need for doing double shifts of some grades to accommodate stu-



dents for at least a half day of learning until another grade school could be completed.

Help arrived on February 29, 1956 when The Springfield Independent newspaper announced that the new Crestwood School would be opening that same day. 540 students transferred to the new building with many students on moving day (now) having decades-long memories of walking from Garfield up Hanover

# History of Springfield

Avenue to Crestwood Elementary with their school supplies to set up their new desks awaiting them there. The property for Crestwood Elementary was deeded from Crestwood Construction Corp to The Fairfax County School Board in 1952 and for a time, the proposed school name was to be "The Springfield City School" until more logical minds decided to name it for the subdivision that surrounds it. With the opening of the Crestwood School, the double shifts at Garfield came to a happy end for parents, teachers and school board officials.

By August of 1954, the development of the Yates Village, Lynbrook and (the soon to be started) Springfield Park

neighborhoods, dictated that a third school was necessary. At that time, 10.6 acres were cut out from the tract of land owned by the firm of Michnick & DiMaio (builders of the Lynbrook and later Springfield Park subdivisions) and donated to the school board to provide a home for the future "Lynbrook Leprechauns".

It was announced in The Springfield Independent newspaper on February 2, 1955 that the Springfield Estates subdivision was soon to be started and the builders were already planning to donate a 12 acre parcel for the erection of a new school to serve that neighborhood and other homes on the east side of Shirley Hwy (now 195/395). Three years later, and after many delays due to wet weather, sewerage problems and issues with an access road to the school, the Springfield Estates Elementary opened to students on March 10, 1958. er, sewerage problems and issues with an access road to the school, the Springfield Es-

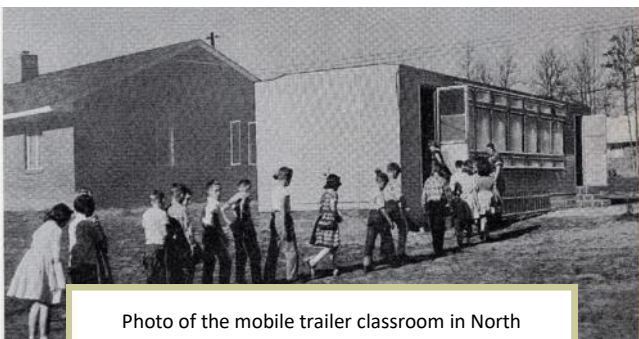


Photo of the mobile trailer classroom in North Springfield as seen in Trailer Life magazine

tates Elementary opened to students on March 10, 1958.

The huge North Springfield community began development in late 1954 and into the spring of 1955. The developer, Carr, Inc. made plans for an elementary school within the bounds of the community, but as with the other schools, the pace of new residents with children moving in was faster than the school board could get the building constructed. Some of the neighborhood

youngsters had to be bused to Weyanoke Elementary, while many children attended classes in some of the Edward R. Carr built houses that were rented as classrooms for the local kids, as well as a specially designed mobile classroom trailer was placed on one of the lots across from the classroom houses. When the school was still under construction, its original 14 classrooms had to be expanded to 22 in order to handle the growing number of children born during the early years of the infamous "Baby Boom" following World War 2 and were now residing in the massive and growing North Springfield community.

(As of 1953, even long-settled Annandale had no high school as theirs was still about a year away, so Springfield was left to send



1958-63 Photo of the former Lee, now Lewis HS

a large number of their high school students by bus all the way to Mt. Vernon High School which was also quickly swamped between their own growth plus the 8th to 12th graders from the Springfield area flooding in. With construction being years away on Springfield's own high school facility, an expansion of Mt. Vernon High had to be hurriedly completed. It was reported

that some Springfield high schoolers even had to be bussed to the old Fairfax High School for part of that first year or two of growth in the community. Relief came when Annandale High School was opened on September 1, 1954 to grades 8-11 with the 12th graders having to be sent back to Mt. Vernon High until Annandale High could be added to.

At long last, and after much shifting of the location and shopping of possible sites (starting in about 1951), property for Franconia - Springfield's proposed new high school was secured on February 1, 1955 when various members of the Javins family deeded 25 acres of their family land to the school board. Bids for the construction were placed before the board on September 19, 1957 and as of the close of that meeting a low bid from the firm of Banks & Lee was accepted, provided that federal funding

## History of Springfield

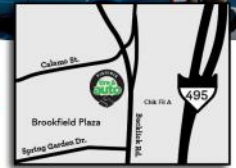
could be obtained. Originally designated “Franconia High School” during the planning and construction phases a great debate over the name was created. Since the school was to serve both Franconia and Springfield students, the residents of Franconia wanted their name on the building, but since most of the student body and the location of the building were Springfield related, those residents insisted on calling it “Springfield High School”.

As written in a May 29, 1958 article in The Springfield Independent newspaper, a school board policy had previously been established so that any new schools built in the county were to be named after “some famous deceased American”, however a deliberate decision not to follow this was made regarding the Springfield area’s new unit. Because of the heated and intense controversy about what name the school should carry, it was decided that no community name would be assigned but rather the school was to be named for the district in which it sat, thus its official name became simply “Lee High School”. It did not start out to have any direct connection to Robert E. Lee, the Confederate general of The Civil War....but nearly five years later that changed.

On July 16, 1963, during a school board meeting the school’s name was changed to add “Robert E”, thus over riding the original 1958 naming decision and honoring the general. As noted in the meeting minutes (accessible through the Fairfax County Public School’s webpage) the change came about as a result of a request from “the Lee H.S. SPTA”. As it is with many things involving schools, such as enlarging the building or changing the curriculum, it was determined that the 1963 name no longer fit the ever-changing needs and culture of the student body of the 21st century nor did it comply with the County’s One Fairfax policy to ensure an inclusive, respectful learning environment. After much investigation, research, public hearings, budget consideration and deliberation, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted on June 23, 2020 to change the name of Robert E. Lee High School to John R. Lewis High School, honoring the late congressman and civil rights leader.



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So there you have a fairly good over view of the early Springfield schools of which all are thankfully still serving the needs of the students of the Springfield area. Naturally there are more schools which were built and opened during the period but space for this article demands that I narrow it down to some of the earliest in the development of the community.

Until next time, Ye Olde Historian wishes you all a happy, safe, healthy and fun start to the 2021-22 school year!

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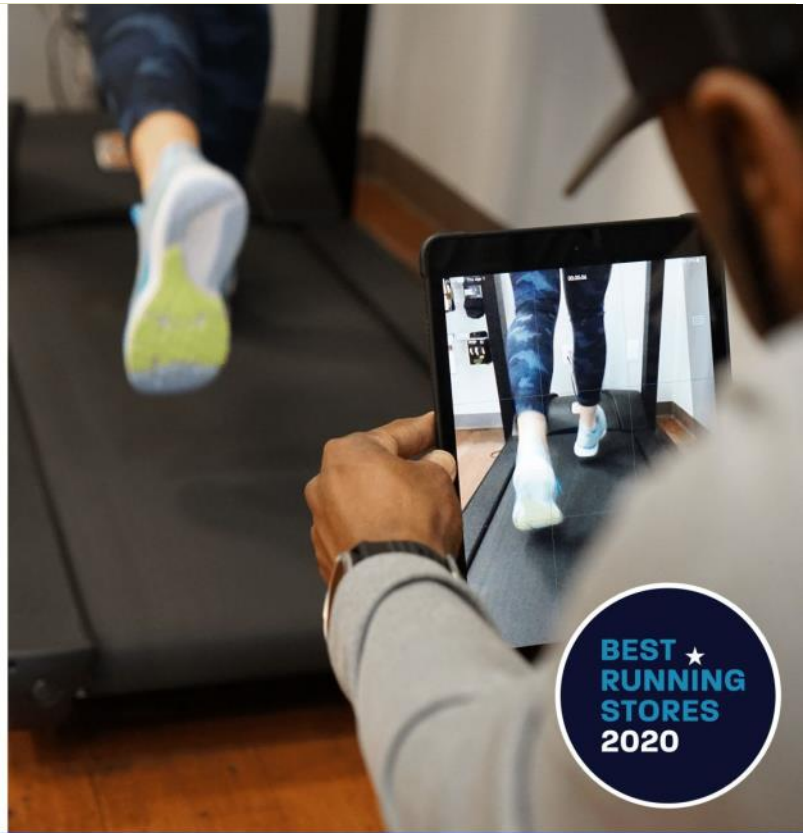
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