

March, 2021

Volume 37, Issue 4

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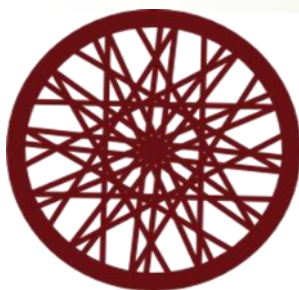
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March Meeting

**March 16, 2021
7:30 via ZOOM
Instructions page 4**

**Topic:
Moving Beyond
Covid-19**

Springfield Reporter



Springfield Civic Association

President's Message—Gail Nittle



March's SCA general membership meeting will touch on ways our community has been affected by COVID 19, how we have dealt with the challenges and promising signs it is moving forward! Providing updates will be Tamara Derenak Kaufax, Lee District Representative on the Fairfax County School Board, Principal Marguerite Saitta of Crestwood Elementary School and Acting Principal Kathleen Sain of Lynbrook Elementary School; Richard Byrd's Head Librarian Valerie Sutte; Executive Director of ECHO Anita King; Park Manager Lake Accotink Park Dan Grulke; and Commander, Franconia District Police Station Captain Greg Fried. We will also hear from Colin Brody representing the Fairfax County Health Department. Even though it may seem like things have come to a standstill this past year, all of these organizations have been hard at work. Please send any questions you have for our presenters ahead of time to springfieldcivic@yahoo.com

Encouraging things happening in our area include the Transportation Security Administration moving into their building near the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station; Inova Health System planning to expand on property adjacent to the current Inova HealthPlex – Franconia/Springfield; and talk of trying to renew the effort to bring the FBI Headquarters to Northern Virginia. As we learned at our last meeting, the revitalization project for central Springfield is moving along and the commuter garage is on track. The dredging project for Lake Accotink is proceeding with great care; you can read the article written about it by Charles Smith, Chief, Watershed Projects Implementation Branch – Central Stormwater Planning Division on page 3.

SCA Board elections will be held at our May 18th meeting. Nominations from the floor will be entertained.

One final positive note: Here's an opportunity to help Boy Scout Ian Griffin achieve his Eagle Scout ranking. Ian will be collecting eye glasses for his project called "Glasses for the Masses." Drive through collection days at First Baptist Church, 7300 Gary Street, Springfield are Thursday, March 11 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 13 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (see article on page 2)

Looking forward to seeing you at our March 16th Zoom meeting!

Stay well,

~Gail

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appreciated.*

Notes From Supervisor Rodney Lusk

It's that time of year again where we turn our focus to all things budget. County Executive Bryan Hill announced the annual Fairfax County Budget on Tuesday February 22nd for Fiscal Year 2022. This is an advertised budget plan and will be adopted on May 4th after a period of many opportunities for public input.

With that, I want to personally invite you to the Lee District Budget Town Hall on Thursday April 1st at 6:30 PM with School Board Member, Tammy Derenak Kaufax. The town hall will be televised on channel 16, for those with COX, Verizon, and Comcast. Additionally, it will be live streamed on my Facebook page at @SupervisorLusk where viewers will have the opportunity to comment and interact live.

Find the FY2022 Advertised Budget here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan>



Here in Lee District, we had our first Town Hall to discuss changing the name of our district on Thursday March 4th. As our county is in the midst of inventorying all of our public assets with names connected to the Confederacy, it's important that we have a conversation about the origins of Lee District's name, and what its potential change would mean for our community. I plan on holding additional meetings to provide more opportunities for input. Look out for more information in May.

Find the full recording of the meeting here: <https://youtu.be/705wySVzsFw>

Find the presentation by Fairfax County Library Virginia Room Archivist, Chris Barbuschak here: <https://youtu.be/jDJ2Qy3TBQY>

Here is the latest on Fairfax County's Covid Response:

Our weekly allocation from the Virginia Department of Health has been increasing recently, and we expect that Fairfax County will continue to receive a higher number of doses throughout March. This means moving through the current waitlist at a faster pace.

More information on that can be found here: <https://fairfaxcountyemergency.wpcomstaging.com/>

Additionally, the county is providing free rides via taxi companies to anyone with a vaccine appointment who does not have access to their own transportation. To schedule your vaccine transportation, call the Health Department Vaccine Call Center at 703-324-7404, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The best resource for COVID-19 related questions is still the Fairfax County Health Department.

Email questions or concerns to ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-267-3511.

Eagle Scout Project

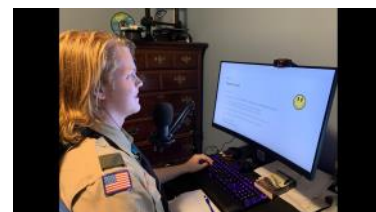
Teen working on Eagle Scout project wants your old eyeglasses

A billion people around the world live with vision problems that could be prevented or corrected. Ian Griffin wants to help solve that problem.

Ian Griffin is a [Boy Scout with Troop 1115](#) in Springfield, Virginia and he's working towards getting an Eagle Scout ranking. Griffin launched a project called "Glasses For the Masses" as he works toward the highest rank in the scouting organization. Griffin is collecting gently used prescription glasses for the [Springfield-Franconia Lions Club](#) who will use the donated glasses to help underprivileged people all over the world. According to the [Lions Club](#), they were inspired by Helen Keller and championed the cause in 1925. Their long-standing mission continues.

- **253 million** people are blind or have moderate to severe distance vision impairment (MSVI)
- **1.1 billion** have near-vision impairment simply because they don't have a pair of glasses
- **>75%** of all blindness and MSVI is avoidable
- **89%** of people with visual impairment live in developing countries

Griffin said the group really needs children's prescription glasses.



Article and Picture from WUSA Channel 9

Lake Accotink Dredging Project Update

County consultants are conducting field investigations to develop a list of alternatives for the dredging of Lake Accotink. These alternatives are mostly about where dredging operations can be staged, how to transport the sediment to a site for dewatering, where there is a large flat area to conduct the dewatering, and then how the dried sediment could be taken away for disposal or reuse.

On February 24, 2021, staff from Arcadis, the county's design engineering company for the project, finished collecting samples of sediment from the lake. A description of how the sediment was collected and the analysis of the sediment that will follow can be found on the Fairfax County website at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/projects/accotink-dredging-poster.pdf>. A public outreach event about the sediment sampling was held at the Lake Accotink Marina on February 22, 2021. A video of that event can be viewed on the project webpage at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/lake-accotink-dredging>.

Arcadis will complete their field assessment activities in April 2021. They will then prepare an alternatives analysis which lays out the options for conducting the dredging operations, the benefits of each alternatives and the costs. County staff will provide that information to the community through the project webpage and public presentations in July 2021 and seek public input.

Lake Accotink Dredging Project Schedule:

- County consultants conduct field assessments – Winter 2020 to Spring 2021
- County consultants develop alternatives analysis – Summer 2021
- County staff present the alternatives and seek public comments – July 2021
- Project design and permitting is conducted – August 2021 to March 2023
- Dredging operations underway – March 2023 to December 2025

For more information, please visit the Lake Accotink Dredging Project page.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information about the project.

Charles Smith, Chief

Watershed Projects Implementation Branch – Central

Stormwater Planning Division

Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 449

Fairfax, VA 22035

Office: 703-324-2467

Cell: 571-206-2693

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/>





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Chairman McKay's Notes on Covid-19

To the Fairfax County Community,

I have two encouraging updates to share regarding our COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

1) We continue to make major strides in vaccinating our residents. Approximately 272,265 individuals have registered with the County, and 96,093 remain on the waiting list. This means, hopefully in the near term, we can open up registration to more people (qualified under state guidelines) in the future. Recently, the Health Department finished sending first-dose invitations to individuals who registered on our highest sign-up day, January 18. This is a significant milestone, due to the limited supply of vaccine as well as the large number of registrants (42,000+) from that day. As you'll see on [our dashboard](#), we've moved on to scheduling the 17,929 individuals who registered on the 19th. While this is certainly progress, I can't stress enough that patience is still needed as we fight the pandemic.

2) The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently authorized the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as the third such tool used in our fight against COVID-19. The Virginia Department of Health will be getting 69,000 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week. Here in Fairfax, we are still evaluating how many of those doses we will receive, how they will be given at our clinics, and how much vaccine will be distributed to our health partners. Know this: We are ready to be sure every vaccine we get each week goes into an arm that same week. Nothing is more important. I will continue to share more as we learn it, but this is good news. Last week, we received 16,380 doses from the state. This news will only increase our ability to vaccinate residents. We've published a blog post with everything you need to know about this new vaccine [here](#).



Remembering 2020

Some day in the future we'll recall 2020.

"Kids gather 'round and I'll tell you a plenty.

There was great concern and we covered our faces.

Clorox was scarce, and we stood back six paces.

The fear was real; there was no vaccine.

It was a time like none we had ever seen.

We checked in on neighbors and gave them a shout,

'Do you need anything? I'm going out.'

We discovered parks we'd not walked before,

And patience for others while we stayed indoor.

To work from home we had to make room.

We missed seeing friends so we learned how to Zoom."

When in the future we retell the tale

Of how COVID lost and WE did prevail,

Include the vaccine for immunity and resistance

And how we showed kindness through masking and distance.

So wash your hands often now, if you please,

And don't forget to cover your sneeze.

~M. M.

SCA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 16, 7:30pm

Join in the March 16 SCA Zoom Meeting by clicking here.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85737562924?
pwd=QTN3c3VZVjRpWVNPTTFETGxoRWdsdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85737562924?pwd=QTN3c3VZVjRpWVNPTTFETGxoRWdsdz09)

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Remembering Ron Paulson

The Crestwood neighborhood has lost a dear friend. Ron Paulson, formerly of Nancemond Street, passed away on February 19, 2021. Many members of the SCA will remember Ron's friendly face at meetings and other civic events. A few neighbors have sent some messages to share with all of us.

Remembering Ron Paulson brings fond memories of our time as members of the SCA and as part of the SCA leadership. Ron represented a group of individuals that led by example and he personified servant leadership. In his quiet and unassuming manner, we felt accepted at a time when the Springfield Civic Association was recognizing diversity in its membership and in leadership positions. He will be sorely missed.

Loida & Rick Gonzalez

Ron was always quick with a smile, and his sunny disposition made any volunteer group task feel more like we were just having fun with friends. He was a joy to be around and I'll always remember his kindness fondly. My sympathies to Lee, his family, and friends.

Diane Boughton

Ron and Lee Paulson were instrumental in revitalizing the Springfield Civic Association. When I was President of the association for a decade, Lee and Ron were mentors to me and huge supporters of the community. Ron was so very kind and always there to help me. They made our newsletter a big success and I loved seeing his woodworking workshop and his career and Naval awards wall in their beautiful home. I am so grateful that I knew him and had the honor of his friendship and love. He would make whatever wood project I pitched to him from standing desks to book shelves. He never said no. I will remember him for a very long time. God speed my brother.

Tawny Hammond

The thing that stands out about Ron to me would be his friendliness with all and his determination. First was to have the prettiest garden on our street, for all to enjoy. Second would be determination to get stronger because we would see him struggling to get up our hill on his walker. It was not easy but he was trying.

Claudia Moore

Ron demonstrated character in every aspect of his life. His love for his family was always in evidence. Visitors to the Paulson home were happily invited to come in for a chat. During their years on Nancemond Street, Ron and his wife Lee were dependable neighbors who were quick to offer a hand, an encouraging word, and more. I think of them often and know that Lee and her family have many comforting memories of a man who steadfastly put his best into the world.

Michele Duell

For those who may wish to read more about Ron and his life, a link to an obituary is below:

<https://www.thomasfuneralhomepa.com/obituary/RonaldE-Paulson?fbclid=IwAR1deERzSbDmwBwbG7E4XPxlPXSp7yWuzrEk3Zyl8PqaL28JOLuqxsV946g>



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NO JOB IS TOO SMALL FOR US

Woman's Club of Springfield



While we have had to curtail a lot of our charitable contributions during the pandemic, one of our activities is near and dear to our hearts. We have long been providing layettes to both Fairfax and Alexandria Hospitals. A delivery was made to Alexandria Hospital on February 4th. Included in that delivery were also car seats and pack-n-plays. Our Club has been recognized by GFWC International for this project, and the hospitals are always so grateful for our assistance and continued support.

Meetings continue by Zoom, and we are enjoying that time together to “see” each other and discussing new and creative ideas of things we can do for the community that don’t cost a lot of money. The Pink Elephant Shop is still not making much profit due to the fact that we are only open three days a week. We are hoping that once our members have been vaccinated, most of them will be willing to return to working in the Shop. We feel that the shop is safe for both our members and our customers. If you haven’t been to see us in a while, drop in and see for yourself. We welcome you, and we have wonderful merchandise for sale.



Our next meeting is March 9th (by Zoom), and we will have a guest speaker — the Career Center Director — Carla Shaw. Our scholarship this year will go to a student at John R. Lewis High School, and we look forward to working with Carla and hearing from her at our meeting. If you are interested in attending our membership meetings, please feel free to contact someone at the Pink Elephant and we will make sure you are invited to join us — or you can e-mail our President, Carol Barron, at barroncarol72@gmail.com.

It's Time to Pay Your SCA Membership Dues!

The SCA would like to remind its members that dues for the 2020-2021 program year were due in September, since our year runs from September through August. If you’ve already renewed your membership for this year, thank you! You only need to pay once during that time. If you have paid dues since September 2020, you are all set for this business year. If you haven’t paid your dues yet, it’s not too late. You can send a check to SCA, P.O. Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150 or visit our website at springfieldcivic.org and click on the PayPal button. Dues are \$15 per household. You must be a paying member to vote and to hold office.

The funds raised from dues go directly to help support the SCA and its programs which directly benefit our community. One of the SCA’s goals is to bring people together and encourage them to be active in community affairs. We advocate for our community’s interests and concerns through local government and other entities. The SCA would not be the strong and vibrant entity that it is without the support of its members! Thank you!

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ECHO NEWS



ECHO distributed over **42,000 pounds** of food in January to people in our community who found themselves in serious financial difficulty. Much of this need is driven by income losses due to the pandemic, so we expect to continue to need tons of food- literally- to keep our neighbors from being hungry. ECHO needs all kinds of non-perishable foods and personal hygiene items in "regular" sizes. King sized packages are very difficult for ECHO to use. Currently, the most urgent need is for jelly, spaghetti sauce, tortillas, 6 oz. tomato paste, juice, laundry detergent, shampoo, hand lotion. If donors find it difficult to bring foods to ECHO during our hours of operation, please note these upcoming **food drives**: on Saturday, Mar 13, 10:00 to noon, Kirkwood Presbyterian, 8336 Carrleigh Pkwy; and on Saturday, Mar 20, noon to 4:00, Patriot District Boy Scout Drive at Westwood Baptist, 8200 Old Keene Mill Rd; and on Saturday, April 3, 9:00 to noon, Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill Road. ECHO needs and welcomes food drives. If you would like to organize a drive, please [e-mail admin@echo-inc.org](mailto:admin@echo-inc.org) to coordinate details.

Because ECHO often has requests from the families we serve for specific kinds of baby formula, ECHO purchases these formulas for our Food Pantry. Donations of these baby formulas would help ECHO preserve its funds for other kinds of needs: (BLUE LABEL) Similac Pro-Advance Non-GMO Powder, (ORANGE LABEL) Similac Pro-Sensitive Non-GMO Powder, (PURPLE LABEL) Similac Pro-Total Comfort Non-GMO Powder.

While ECHO is unable to accept donations of adult clothing or household goods right now, we need **spring and summer clothing for growing children**, including teens. The need for children's sneakers, new or gently used, is great. Donors may prefer to order from ECHO's Amazon Wishlist (https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1NPONMD7U0IS2?ref=wl_share) and have donations delivered directly to ECHO. Please see www.echo-inc.org for a complete list of needs. ECHO, at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, is open to accept donations Monday through Friday, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and on 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 (who are masked) will assist with your donation and offer written receipts.

ECHO now has some opportunities for new volunteers to serve in very specific roles. On two or more Friday mornings a month, we need a Donation Door volunteer to greet donors and be physically strong enough to lift bags and boxes of donations from vehicles onto rolling carts. ECHO also needs a Friday morning volunteer who speaks Spanish and is interested in interviewing clients (currently only by telephone) and keeping written records of assistance. ECHO will provide training for this volunteer. ECHO also needs assistance in updating our Word Press website to make it more mobile friendly. This can be a short-term commitment. Anyone interested in volunteering should e-mail volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Upcoming Dates to Note

March 13- 10:00 - noon, Food Drive, Kirkwood Presbyterian
 March 12, 15 - Spring clothing changeover
 March 20- noon - 4:00 Boy Scout Food Drive, Westwood Baptist
 April 1- ECHO closed in the evening only
 April 2- ECHO closed
 April 3- 9:00 - noon, Burke Community Church Food Drive
 April 19 - Exec Comm meeting, 7:30

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TSA Building Progress

The Transportation Security Administration is filling up with employees in southern Springfield.

By [Mike Salmon](#)/Connection Newspaper

As the winter winds down, the spring will bring new life into southern Springfield with the Transportation Security Administration completing their move into a nine-story, 625,000 square-foot building a few hundred yards from the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. The TSA relocation is combining five locations around the metro area into this one building, and when complete, this will be a boon to the businesses in this part of Springfield and Kingstowne.



“We’ll be reaching out to the community to meet our food needs,” said Peter M McVey, Director, of the TSA National Capital Region Consolidation and Relocation Project on a conference call sponsored by the Lee-Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce. The snowstorm blanketed the area the morning of the call, which was attended by 30 business leaders, elected officials and residents to hear about the latest developments with the new facility.

Currently there are 1,000 employees in the building, but that number will move up to 1,250 in the coming weeks, and top out at 3,100 when it is full. McVey narrated a slide show that showcased the facilities in the building, including security, offices, transportation and logistics for the government employees coming to Springfield. From the Metro station, there is a shuttle for federal employees only, and a walkway for others, as well as a six-level parking garage. The main entrance will be on the second floor where there is a secured entry facility, a coffee area and “Mission Hall,” a museum-like place that tells the story of the TSA. There are some appliances that have not been delivered, and McVey said “we are still feeling the impacts of covid with appliance delivery,” so for now, some rely on the vending machines.

Transportation is being pieced together, and right now, the building can only be accessed by a single road from Loisdale Road. Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) noted the importance of the Frontier Drive extension, which is a Virginia Department of Transportation project to extend Frontier Drive through the Metro station, by the TSA building, and eventually linking to Loisdale Road. “The Frontier Drive extension is the main improvement but it’s not funded,” he said, adding that officials on various levels are working on that.

Frontier Drive Project

According to VDOT, the \$140 million Frontier Drive project is currently in the preliminary design stage. VDOT describes the project as a four-lane divided roadway, which includes a combination of new construction and improvements to Springfield Center Drive and a new bridge over Long Branch, with on-road bicycle facilities, as well as a shared-use path on one side and a sidewalk on the other side. Braided ramps at the Frontier Drive and Franconia-Springfield Parkway interchange to improve access and eliminate weaving movements.

The project includes improvements to the Franconia-Springfield Metro station circulatory road and access to the Metro station parking structures, including three new bus bays and a direct connection from the transit center to eastbound Franconia-Springfield Parkway.

“I believe we’ll be able to find money to get this done,” Lusk said, noting that the Frontier Drive project is third in a row of road projects that are up for funding.

James Glenn, a nearby resident on the conference call, suggested a monorail from the station right into the TSA building as one improvement that could bring Metro riders to the office easily.

In the same area, Inova Health System plans to expand on recently acquired property adjacent to the current Inova HealthPlex – Franconia/Springfield. Inova medical facilities is looking to build a hospital at Beulah Street and the Springfield-Franconia Parkway intersection, and Lusk looked at that project as another plus for this immediate area as a training and employment venue for residents.

In addition, Lusk is enthusiastic about renewing the effort to bring the FBI Headquarters to a parcel of land that is currently occupied by the General Services Administration. He’s working on this with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA).

“We think the new administration is going to be open to this,” Lusk said.

Trails for Youth News

Coming Soon – Brookfield Park New Bicycle Obstacle Skills Trail!

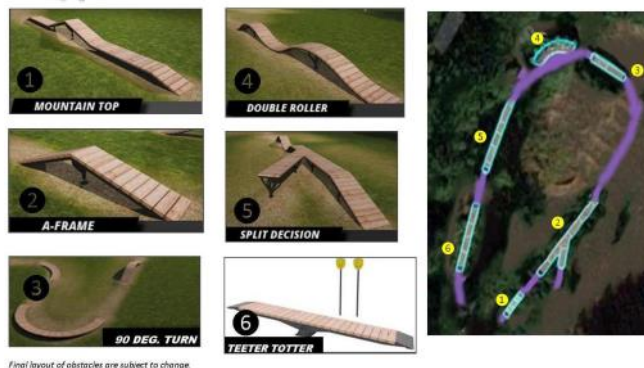
TrailsforYouth.Org (TYO) is thrilled to announce that the Fairfax County Park Authority has voted in support of the bike skills trail along the perimeter of the current pump track at Brookfield Park. This trail will provide hours of biking enjoyment for all riders of all abilities for years to come! We are extremely grateful for all the support from the community and the Springfield Civic Association. TYO will oversee installation of the obstacles being built by Progressive Bike Ramp. We anticipate installation to take place this Spring, so all the families can enjoy the features throughout the year.

We are truly grateful to the SCA, FCPA and many families and other organizations for their unwavering support. We will post progress updates on our Facebook pages ([www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/TrailsforYouth.org) TrailsforYouth.org and [www.facebook.com/Brookfield Park](http://www.facebook.com/BrookfieldPark)). Please follow and like our pages for more updates and photos.

And looking ahead... make a note! We will announce registration for all 5-8 grade SCA community girls to be part of our week long Summer Camp – Girls Rolling and Learning STEM in Nature. This camp will use bicycles and nature exploration to learn a variety of STEM concepts and terms and practice hands-on learning of these ideas through biking and hiking. Stay tuned for the dates, and email Julie@trailsforyouth.org if interested.



Brookfield Park Bicycle Skills Phase II



Final layout of obstacles are subject to change.



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Springfield Swimming Club

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Do you have a question for the SCA? Contact us via email at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com.

Check out our website at www.springfieldcivic.org

We're on Facebook ! Check us out at

Springfield Civic Association

Lake Accotink Park

The core sampling of the lake and surrounding land of the lake has started taking place. The sampling is used to gather data for the proposed dredging of Lake Accotink. Questions about this project can be referred to Charles Smith of Stormwater Management at Charles.Smith@fairfaxcounty.gov. Staff is working to get the park up and running for the 2021 season. It is refreshing to see park programs and summer camps filling up, signaling that the community trusts the COVID-19 safety protocols that the Park Authority has established. These enhanced safety efforts allow the community to safely participate in recreational activities while remaining in compliance with all current COVID-19 guidance.

To see other programs at Lake Accotink, please visit:

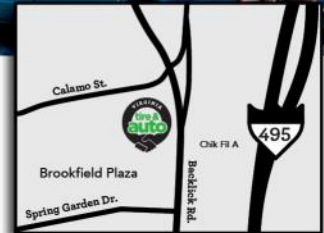
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.

Two projects expected to start this year include: the stream crossing bridge below Lake Accotink and trail repair/enhancements towards Danbury Forest. In these challenging times, Lake Accotink Park and the Fairfax County Park Authority thanks you for your continued support.

Thanks,
Dan Grulke
Park Manager
Lake Accotink Park



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Springfield Art Guild

PLEASE JOIN THE SPRINGFIELD ART GUILD FOR OUR VIRTUAL 2021 GUEST SPEAKER SERIES!! MARCH 10 and APRIL 14

**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: Donnalynne Lefever, January 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 for the Zoom link to our programs.

Our Guest Speaker for March 10 is Photographer Rick Reda.

Rick Reda has been a photographer for over fifty years. Specializing in landscapes and wildlife, he has traveled from Alaska to Antarctica to Africa. He started with a makeshift darkroom set up in the bathroom of a two-bedroom apartment in Detroit, developing and producing color prints. This was a bit more complicated than it sounds, since he was living in this apartment with his wife and four children. Fortunately, his in-laws lived in the next complex, so when the children began whining about needing to use the bathroom, he had someplace to send them.

Within a few short years, his photographs were on display in the Trimpe Gallery in Detroit. Over the years he has transitioned from film photography to digital photography. His works have been on exhibit at Arch-es Gallery at the Workhouse in Lorton VA; Gallery Underground in Crystal City, VA; and ArtBeat Gallery in Manassas, VA. He currently has work displayed in The Loft Gallery, in Occoquan, VA; and in several private collections across the United States and in Europe. To see more, you can visit his website at rickredaphotos.com.



Our Guest Speaker for April 14 is Paper Artist Sarah Suplina



Sarah Suplina is both a professional artist and art teacher. She earned her Masters in Fine Arts from Pratt Institute in New York. However, Sarah's unique art style was self-taught over the years. Sarah works in cut paper with nature as her primary subject, with birds as a particular favorite. All art pieces are crafted from hand painted, hand cut paper with fine details including rich textures and depths. Sarah's art is full of love and attention and has inspired many artists from the very young to very mature. Sarah is a member of the Paper Artist Collective, an exclusive international group of paper artists, and her work has been displayed and sold all over the country.

To see more of her art work and intricate designs, visit her on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/sarahsnippets/>

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)



Our Mission

Protect, Restore, Preserve and Educate All Concerning the Natural, Historical and Cultural Resources of Lake Accotink Park

Lead a Team of skilled, dedicated Community Volunteers

We Have Several Positions Available (3-4 Hours a Month)



Please contact us at contact@flapaccotink.org thanks for giving back.

Check Out our impacts to the environment, Wildlife and Community at:
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www.flapaccotink.org



"Protect, restore, preserve and educate all concerning the natural, historical and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park"

Help Lake Accotink VOLUNTEER



WHAT: Clean-Up, Garden Weeding

WHEN: 2nd Sun of every **Month**

TIME: 9:00am -11:00ish

WHERE: Lake Accotink Marina

Register: https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization_details/71653

ACTIVITIES: Pick-up or bring your own trash bags from FLAP Volunteer and hit the trail to fill your trash bags with debris carelessly dumped, dropped

Note: Long sleeves, gloves, boots and long pants are encouraged ALL COVID Protocols are in place, **MASKS are MANDATORY**

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His team did a wonderful job selling the house that had been our home of 27 years. He and his recommended stager gave spot-on advice about where to concentrate our efforts freshening up the house to maximize its appeal. His skill as a negotiator came to the fore when the **house sold the first weekend for well over the asking price with multiple offers.**

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Potomac River Running in Springfield

The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, spring is on its way! After a long, cold couple of months, it's time to get outside and go for a walk or a run. Make it a part of your daily routine to run, walk, or do some sort of outdoor activity. Get motivated this spring to spend time being active outside every day.

Take the first step by stopping by Potomac River Running in Springfield (formerly Metro Run and Walk) to get fit for the perfect pair of shoes. Whether you are walking 10 minutes in your neighborhood every morning or running on the trails each weekend, the key to comfort is in the shoes. Our expert staff will conduct a complimentary gait analysis, where we watch you run or walk on our in-house treadmill. Through our video gait analysis app we will show you exactly what your feet are doing with each stride. Next, we give you some options of shoes to try on that will work well with your specific foot shape and stride.



Before you leave, be sure to check out all our great apparel and accessories to make your walks and runs even better. Springtime weather can be random. One minute it's sunny and warm, the next it's cool and rainy. Our various technical apparel pieces will keep you comfortable in any type of weather. In addition, accessories such as socks, nutritionals, and hydration packs will help keep you going for more miles!

We know how hard it is to get excited about walking and running outside during the winter. Now that spring is quickly approaching, we are here to help you get everything you need to get outside and get motivated. Shop with us at one of our 9 locations in the northern Virginia/DC area (including our store in Springfield) as well as online. We look forward to seeing you outside and active!

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Volunteers must be 18 years or older to be eligible for this important role. For more information:

<https://warriorcanineconnection.org>



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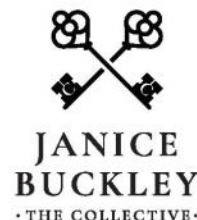
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The History of Springfield (page 15-22)

The History of Springfield Part 4- -As the Subdivisions Grew, So Did Everything Else. By Robyn Carter

Hi Springfielders! Welcome to the last of the winter editions of The Springfield Reporter. Hopefully everyone is looking forward to thawing out and a refreshing spring season ahead.

When last we took a look back at the early days of Springfield's development in the January edition, we examined those early subdivisions that came following Edward R. Carr doing the developing and Crestwood Construction getting things started with the housing. As hundreds of families began moving into the area, there were some real challenges for those early Springfield "pioneers". For one thing, something as basic as mail service was, at best, extremely primitive. To modern Springfielders it might come as unthinkable but for the first year and a half to two years, house to house mail delivery was not a reality. Those early (1952 & early 1953) residents had to go to a very small railroad depot that used to exist on the north side of the tracks across from the current Backlick Rd station. Mail sacks were dropped off or picked up by trains that ran past the depot and residents had to stop there to get or send their mailings. At that time there was no overpass carrying Backlick Rd over the tracks nor were there the usual gates that we are accustomed to seeing where at-grade crossings exist today. Once they drove over the tracks, residents had to turn onto the gravel and dirt shoulder of the track bed and park as best they could, hoping there were only a few others doing the same thing.



(Late 1950s view of the old Springfield Depot looking westward towards Backlick Rd. Note the light colored car that is stopped at the grade crossing heading southward on Backlick prior to the overpass being built. Image from the Fairfax County History Commission Historical Highway Markers Map Tour)

The History of Springfield (cont'd)



(1953-54 view eastward from Backlick Rd towards the depot, showing the parking availability that the early residents had available to go to get their mail. (Photo courtesy of The Nancy & Arthur Hughes Family Archives.)

On February 2, 1953, a new post office location opened as the first tenant in the still unfinished “Springfield Shopping Center” (aka: The Lynch Shopping Center currently The Tower Shopping Center at the SW corner of Brandon Ave and Bland St.) Postmaster Roy T. Bowman and two of his employees ran the new office after having served in the old railroad depot location. Almost immediately he and members of the brand new Springfield Civic Association began working to promote the sales of stamps, post office boxes, and residential mail boxes in order to amass the revenue that was required by The United States Postal Service to advance its class status and move towards house to house delivery. The efforts were extremely swift and successful because the office reached 2nd class status as of July 1, 1953 and the house to house delivery began in the Crestwood section on December 1, 1953. Delivery to the other subdivisions came shortly thereafter.

In these days of cell phones, communication is pretty much taken for granted as being instantaneous, but in the years 1952-55, not only did early residents have to depend on what is today called land lines, they also had to endure something that few of us today can imagine.....a party line system. In that time phone lines to an area like Springfield were minimal. Because the community transformed so quickly from rural to suburban and because phone lines were extremely expensive to run, it took quite a bit of time for the service to catch up to the exploding population. Residents often shared a line with 8 to 9 other households with only a single call per line at a time and a special combination of ring tones that alerted each resident if the call was for them, or one of their neighbors on the line. One temporary solution was to place a telephone booth at the SW corner of Amherst Ave and Highland Street. That booth proved to be so

The History of Springfield (cont'd)

busy with use that a second one was installed on the corner of Craig Street and Highland. Both booths were removed as of February 15, 1954 because The Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company had installed a new cable to the area at a, then whopping cost of \$256,000. Additional help with service came when a new telephone exchange building was constructed at 6538 Little River Turnpike that helped take care of the Springfield call load. Completed in 1955, the building still exists today with some additions.

The car suspension systems of those Springfield Pioneers took a real beating too because the roads were frankly a mess. Backlick was primarily a combination of dirt and gravel with some areas paved with a rudimentary type of surfacing called Macadam, which was mainly gravel with a tar substance sprayed over it as a binding. None of which held up well to weather and the increasing punishment of the heavy trucks and construction equipment lumbering over them as the houses were being built. Adding to this was the problem of a lack of traffic signals, signage and posted speed limits. Accidents due to the lack of these (now) basic things were common and calls for safety measures were a part of what your civic association fought for with the state highway commission and other governmental agencies over the course of those early years. Residents in the Springvale subdivision didn't get any of their roads properly surfaced until 1955 and before that; any rainfall resulted in muddy travel in and out of the neighborhood. Crestwood (and the other subdivisions) got pavement pretty much from the start but it didn't hold up well due to the aforementioned construction traffic as the building continued.

During these pandemic times we are living in, the shopping habits for many have changed but the necessity of obtaining groceries and other supplies was even less convenient during Springfield's development infancy. At first, the only local store was a sort of "general store" type called Gallahan's Grocery (on the south side of Old Keene Mill Rd at its intersection with Hanover Ave.) and the next closest one was in Franconia called Fitzgerald's. Neither was large nor carried a huge variety since they were based on a very small rural population. In September of 1951, a Safeway supermarket store opened in the present day Bank of America location in Annandale at Columbia Pike and Backlick Rd. This gave early Springfielder's their access to a grocery store more in line with the times. Today, it's nothing to go from Springfield to Annandale, but due to the road situation, that trip for groceries wasn't so easy along Backlick Rd with the above described road conditions, the very dangerous railroad crossing, many ruts and narrow passage along much of the way.



1960s view of the 1951 Annandale Safeway (The Annandale Chamber of Commerce website)

The History of Springfield (cont'd)

By May of 1953, the aforementioned shopping center facing Brandon Ave between Old Keene Mill Rd and Bland St. had a small, modern supermarket, a dry cleaning store, a pharmacy, a barbershop and a small family owned hardware store that evolved from its origins as Springfield Hardware and Paint to one of the longest serving and most beloved institutions in the community, Fischer's Hardware. The center was known both as The Lynch Shopping Center and The Springfield Shopping Center, and from its original 5 unit section, it grew in stages through the mid-1950s.



1953 view of The Lynch/Springfield Shopping Center and its original tenants. (The Springfield Independent)



Summer 1958 view of the same shopping center with additions, looking NW from Old Keene Mill and over the west-bound merge lane off of Shirley Highway/395 S in the foreground. (Image from the Fairfax County Courthouse Archive)

The History of Springfield (cont'd)

As the population grew fast during 1953-54, Edward R. Carr broke ground for, what was known as The Springfield City Shopping Center. One half of the structure, was occupied by Springfield's first full service super market called Bon Food while the other half of the building, facing Amherst Ave was occupied by a few small retail shops. Opening in May 1955, the center provided some relief in reducing the need to go outside of Springfield for as much of the needs of the people. From a historical standpoint, thankfully the building still stands but its general popularity in the community today is rather dubious with the entire building being used as The Paper Moon night club. In its prouder days, the center appeared like this in a 1957 photo taken from the intersection of Bland St and Amherst, looking in a NE direction towards Yates Village.



In 1959, a major grocery retailer came to town and built its own stand-alone store at the NE corner of Brandon Ave & Bland St, when the A&P chain opened this store in January of that year. With an addition in front, the building is now the current LA Mart.



Springfield A&P at the NE corner of Bland St & Brandon Ave as seen in 1969 (Courtesy of the Roxanne Edwards Collection)

The History of Springfield (cont'd)

After A&P left the area, this was the location for Fischer's Hardware for a while before it moved into the next retail space that I'll cover now.

In the Spring of 1960, Vernon Lynch developed a large tract of land adjacent to the southern end of Yates Village and signed up two major retailers to occupy the larger sections of it. Now known as The Concord Shopping Center, it debuted with a Drug Fair store occupying the western most spot with a great mid-century "Ranch Style" Safeway on the eastern end. The Springfield Safeway was distinct with its very low pitched, wide roofline that gave it an appearance somewhat akin to a contemporary ranch home. In 1964, another of Springfield's very long term businesses became a tenant, when The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop opened. Through the years additions to both ends of the center came along, as well as the parking lot has had additional retail structures added to it. As of this writing the Aldi grocery store occupies the spot (but not the original structure) of the former Safeway. The former Safeway structure (minus the fancy roof) was another (and the last) location for Fischer's Hardware.



1969 view of the center. (Courtesy of The Roxanne Edwards Collection)

In the August of 1960, The Springfield Plaza opened with a huge "Super Giant" in the same location that it occupied until recently when it moved into the renovated early 1980s K-Mart building. Giant Food had been upgrading some of their traditional markets with additional merchandise that was more in the household goods vein along with the grocery items and those locations were named "Super Giant" stores. A People's Drug store and a People's Hardware store (not related) opened to the left of Giant and on the far right a Kresge's "Five and Dime" style retailer presented Springfielder's with a great discount store for many of their needs that they formerly had to drive into Shirlington or Alexandria for.



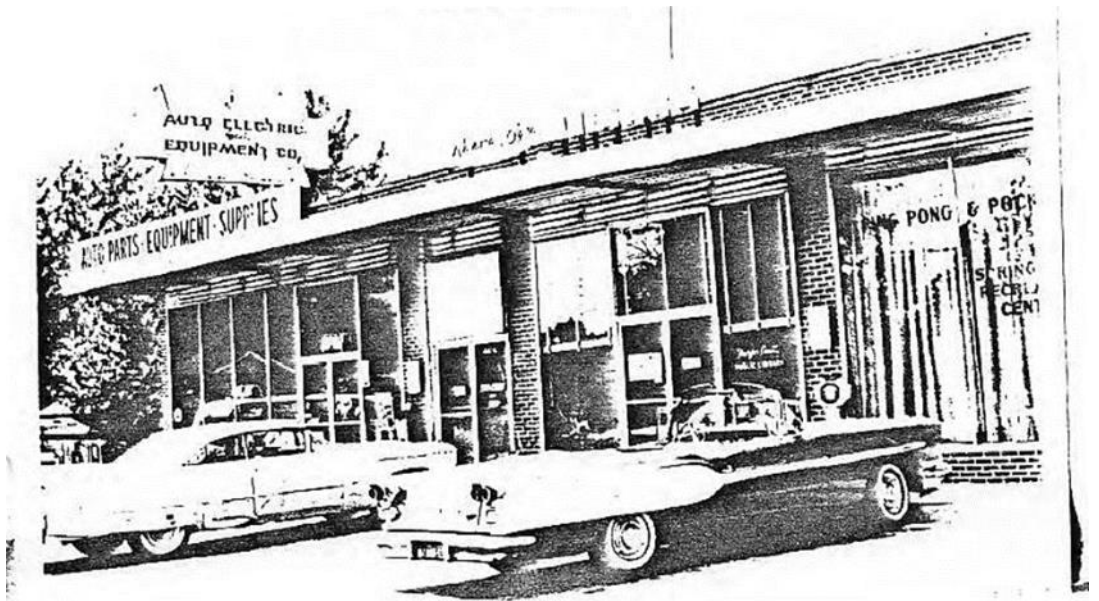
Early 1961 view of Springfield Plaza. (Courtesy of Stephen R. Williams) Note the much less cluttered parking lots of all the larger centers when new, which provided more parking spaces than are currently available.

The History of Springfield (cont'd)

(Springfield Oddity Note: In newspaper ads in 1960, the current Concord Center was being called "The Springfield Plaza Shopping Center" while later in the year, and up to the current day, the center that had Giant was also called the same thing. Until the current naming, the center on Backlick didn't seem to have an official name outside of those early ads.)

1956 brought forth two small strip shopping centers on either side of Backlick Rd that, as of this writing, are about the only remaining, virtually intact original retail centers that have not either been torn down or so heavily remodeled as to be unrecognizable. Both could easily be restored to serve as working, functional anchors of the early days of Springfield's commercial development but sadly I have been informed that both are slated for, yet another, destroy and replacement plan, thus eliminating some of the last vestiges of her early style. Neither center is of any outstanding architectural significance other than they represent the prevailing simplicity and clean lines of the mid-century contemporary commercial architecture.....which ironically is coming back in style in many new buildings today. The larger of the two was originally called The Gordin-Mensh Shopping Center and it has three claims to fame in local history. One is that it housed the original location of the Richard Byrd Library when it began in 1958. Second it houses the single oldest remaining business in Springfield and that is Presto Cleaners that has been operating continuously in that center since it opened in 1956. Lastly, and the one that is likely most important to current residents, is the center is the long time location for Moe's Peyton Place which has been a local institution for many decades now.

1959-60 photo showing The Richard Byrd Library (between the two cars) in The Gordin-Mensh Shopping Center, which is current part of Moe's Peyton Place.



1969 view of The Gordin-Mensh Shopping Center (courtesy of The Roxanne Edwards Collection) shows the center prior to the addition of the current mansard roof over the formerly flat canopy.

The History of Springfield (cont'd)

Directly across Backlick from The Gordin-Mensh Shopping Center stands a smaller but equally original center that, up to this point, doesn't seem to have been named but still could be sensitively restored to remain as a proud example of Springfield's early retail architecture, if only redevelopment would allow it. The below 1969 photo (courtesy of The Roxanne Edwards Collection) shows the center as it was and as it could be if it were to be cleaned, repaired and restored to continue serving modern residents, even if it is incorporated into a newer, taller, larger and cohesively designed structure, standing out in relief so that the new doesn't swallow the original. Such blending of historic and new structures has been done successfully in other areas so that progress and history can work hand in hand to the benefit of all both now and going forward.



That's it for this edition's journey into Springfield's proud history. I hope you will join me for another trip into The Springfield Time Machine in the next issue. Until then, Ye Old Historian wishes you all well and extends my enduring hope that everyone's pride in the community will grow through seeing that it has some interesting history to go along with its present and future success. I will close with a quote from the former First Lady, Jackie Kennedy Onassis who was a proponent for the preservation of local historic structures in New York City –

"Is it not cruel to let our city die by degrees, stripped of all her proud monuments, until there will be nothing left of all her history and beauty to inspire our children. If they are not inspired by the past of our city, where will they find the strength to fight for her future?"



Springfield
Civic Association
Where we all come together

PO Box 842
Springfield, VA 22150

March Meeting
March 16, 2021
7:30 pm via ZOOM
Instructions page 4
Topic:
Moving Beyond
Covid-19

PLEASE JOIN US!



Where we all come together

The Springfield Civic Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to:

- Encouraging residents to be active in community affairs
- Promoting civic responsibility through education and advocacy
- Effectively interacting with local government and community organizations
- Enhancing the quality of life in Springfield.

We are the hub that links residents and organizations, enhances communications, and embraces diversity to create a vibrant Springfield community.

Join SCA

Annual dues of \$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 www.springfieldcivic.org to join or renew online.

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