

Springfield Reporter

November 2021

Volume 38, Issue 2

SCA Board of Directors

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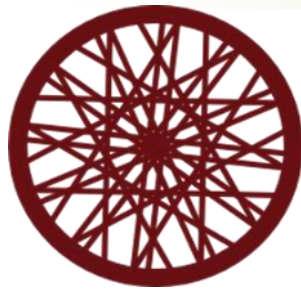
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Springfield Civic Association

President's Message—Gail Nittle



Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving mark the beginning of the holiday season - a busy time of year, one in which it's all too easy to get caught up in the frenzy and forget the meaning. We here in Crestwood/Lynbrook have been and continue to be home to many veterans and their families. They've served our country and our community well. Several men and women on our SCA Board are veterans. If you know a veteran or someone on active duty, why not take a minute to thank them for their service?

In the spirit of thanksgiving, we're grateful for the service our police, firemen, and first responders provide our community 24/7! Mark your calendar - we're planning to have a presentation from Captain James Krause of the Franconia Police Station at our January 18th meeting.

We would be remiss if we didn't thank Supervisor Rodney Lusk and his staff for their efforts on behalf of our community and their responsiveness to our concerns. Thank you!

Have you noticed the new consolidated bus stop pad/bench, trash can and bike rack on Old Keene Mill between Commerce and Hanover? Many thanks to SCA volunteer Kurt Doehner for his persistence in making this a reality! What about the manicured look of the Crestwood's Springfield sign triangle? Thank you, Jason Planakis!!! The Halloween Decorating Contest, the work of SCA 2nd VP Mike Slater and his judges, delights the community every year! Thanks, Mike! And thanks to all our unsung heroes who make this a wonderful community in which to live!

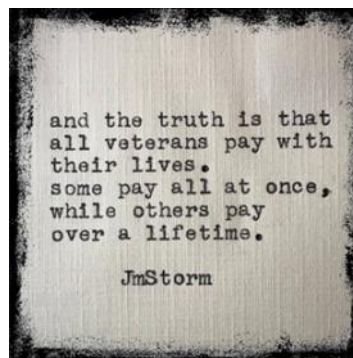
During this busy time of year, please consider reaching out with a call or note to a friend or neighbor who may live alone or is just elderly and with the isolation of the past almost two years may be feeling forgotten.

Finally, our November 16th meeting will focus on "Healthy Minds – Happy Lives... Resources for Coping in Today's World". Representatives from the Fairfax County Community Services Board will tell us about County resources. In addition, Tom Worosz, President and Founder of ConnerStrong Foundation, will share how ConnerStrong Foundation is making a difference! Please join us via Zoom at 7 pm.

~Gail

November Meeting
November 16 , 2021
7:00 pm
via Zoom

Topic:
Healthy Minds-Happy Lives,
Resources for Coping
In Today's World



Have a happy Thanksgiving and from the SCA to all veterans ... Thank you for your service!

Supervisor Rodney Lusk Update



The current pandemic has put unprecedented strain on the County's public safety personnel. It has also magnified many of the staffing challenges that were persistent in the public safety system even before Covid-19. That is why I have presented a Board Matter to address many of those challenges; however, it's also critical that the Board look for smart fixes that can be made on a more immediate timeline.

One such smart fix can be found within the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. For every entry-level Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) position advertised by the County, approximately 4,000 applications are received. Following the transmission of those applications, applicants then move through a structured screening process that includes the review of a personal profile, background check, fitness evaluation, medical screening, written exam, and polygraph. These screening and evaluation measures are critical to ensuring that FCFRD remains the nation's premier fire and rescue department. I was surprised to learn that of the 4,000 applicants that begin this process, approximately 75 percent drop out of the process on the very first step—the personal profile.

Unlike in surrounding jurisdictions, as well as in most comparable jurisdictions across the country, firefighter/EMT applicants are required to collect and mail in physical copies of their employment, education, and personal reference documents. This antiquated process is likely responsible for a substantive portion of the early attrition in the hiring process, largely based on a combination of inconvenience and that simple fact that an applicant can advance through the process in a neighboring jurisdiction much more quickly simply by being able to submit their application materials digitally.

Therefore, I moved that the Board direct the appropriate staff to:

1. Undertake a review of the information technology support, resources, and timeline necessary to convert any applicable portion of the FCFRD application process over to a digital portal.
2. Specifically designate any best practices or adjustments that could potentially be coordinated and streamlined with parallel hiring processes across other public safety departments.
3. Report the findings to either the Public Safety Committee or the Information Technology Committee before the end of 2021 with interim updates or implementation recommendations.

My motion was made with close consultation with the Director of Human Resources, Director of Information Technology, Fire Chief, and County Executive, and is supported by each.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with my office.

Email: leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov or phone 703-971-6262.

Also, sign up for my weekly newsletter, the Lusk Report, for weekly updates on Board Matters, upcoming events, and county resources tailored for Lee District residents.

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/prLKTt/SignupLuskReport>

It's Time to Pay Your SCA Membership Dues!

The SCA would like to remind its members that dues for the 2021-2022 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 2021, 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!

Friends of Richard Byrd Library

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

December Used Book Sale Returns!!!

We are very excited to announce that our used book sale is back with a few changes.

Masking required. Room occupancy limitations enforced.

Preview Sale: Wednesday, December 1st, 2 – 5pm,
\$10 admission fee.

Open to all: Thursday, December 2nd, 10am – 6pm

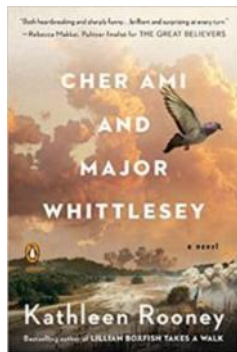
Friday, December 3rd, 10am – 6pm

Saturday, December 4th, 10am – 6pm

Sunday, December 5th, 12 – 2pm, Bag Sale, \$5/Bag

Book Review: Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey

by Claudia Moore



A unique presentation of the camaraderie, heroes, and horrors of World War I. Cher Ami, a female homing pigeon with a male name, saved the lives of 200 Americans of the Lost Battalion in the horrendous battle of Muse Argonne, one of the last battles of World War I. Surrounded by German troops, they were being bombarded by friendly fire. Of their original total of 550 men, 350 had died or become prisoners. Colonel Whittlesey, the battalion commander, had sent human runners to headquarters describing their plight but they were unsuccessful in reaching the destination. His last remaining homing pigeon used frequently as messengers in the war, was Cher Ami, who, although badly wounded successfully reached headquarters with the message to cease fire! Our heroine survived about a year, was stuffed, and tells her story from her perch in the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Whittlesey is also presented in first person although the reader learns in the beginning that he commits suicide 3 years after the war. The media presented him as a great hero but he remembered the deaths and wounds of the war. Although this is a novel, Rooney's use of details shows the hours of research which bring the story to life. In alternating chapters the lives of Cher Ami and Charles Whittlesey, come vividly in focus. Identical opening sentences introduce each pair of Cher Ami and Whittlesey's chapters as they alternately tell their stories from childhood, through training, and into the battle and beyond. These sentences serve as a parallel introduction that will

be philosophical statements providing a look at each life and perception as it is discussed. Many are applicable to our view of heroes today, i.e., "Patriotic parades are for politicians and civilians. Not for soldiers, not for pigeons." Rooney creatively blends facts with fantasy: Cher Ami's thoughts and actions. It is her thoughts and evaluations of humanity which provide a humorous respite in the story -- especially her male name, reactions to female heroes, and evaluations of the comments by the visitors of the museum today. Charles was a well publicized hero, although he did not write an autobiography, he was well educated and much publicized as a hero following the war. The book concludes with questions for discussion. Rooney highlights the unusual combination which man has united: gentle birds and despicable war.

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Book Review: The Vanishing Half

by Vijaya Gollamudi

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett is a story that spans from the 1940s to the 1990s. The story focuses on twin sisters, Desiree and Stella Vignes. The sisters are raised in the fictional small town of Mallard, Louisiana. The sisters are the progeny of the founders of this tiny town of African Americans where complexion politics are very present. The twins are opposite in every way but their looks. Desiree is messy and impulsive, and Stella is neat and reserved. Through the course of the story the relationship and connection between the two sisters is broken and eventually remade by their daughters.



The author so aptly illustrates the internal struggle of the twins. Race, class, and gender discussions are wrapped in beautiful language that pulls the reader into the struggles of the story and into the characters.

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.

Follow us on Social Media outlets

Friends on Facebook at "[FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary)"

Instagram at "[richardbyrdlibraryfriends](https://www.instagram.com/richardbyrdlibraryfriends)"

Twitter at "[ByrdLibFriends](https://twitter.com/ByrdLibFriends)"

Your engagement helps us reach an even broader audience!

ECHO



ECHO is aware of many families who would welcome the gift of groceries for a festive holiday meal at Thanksgiving or Christmas, especially in a time that we are seeing food prices rise. ECHO can arrange for a donor to provide those resources directly to a specific local family. For the safety of all, we are urging that donors mail grocery gift cards instead of delivering bags of food. If you would like to help a family, or families, have a special meal, contact holidayfoodprograms@echo-inc.org for more information.

To our generous and thoughtful FOOD Donors: ECHO doesn't repackage bulk foods into smaller servings, or use foods that have been repackaged because we cannot attest to their safe handling. We appreciate the thrift of those who would like to divide bulk items to serve more people, but ECHO must distribute food in the manufacturer's packaging. "Regular" sizes work best for us. Another update for ECHO donors is a new rule that ECHO, along with other food-providers, cannot place large orders for food or hygiene products now because of supply chain problems. This will impact our food distribution dramatically because we will be unable to use funds to purchase cartons of basic items that run low. We are asking donors to step up once again to bring food and supplies directly to ECHO, or to one of the ECHO collection sites at the Braddock District or West Springfield Government Offices or the Bingo Hall of Springfield's Volunteer Fire Dept., or to a food drive so that we can keep our pantry stocked. Items most urgently needed are listed on our homepage at www.echo-inc.org.

Scouting for Food! Area Scout Troops work hard to collect and deliver food donations, and ECHO benefits from their work for months afterward. On Saturday, November 6, Scouts will place flyers at homes in the neighborhoods where they will be collecting asking people to leave a bag of non-perishable foods on their porch by 8:30 am, November 13 for the scouts to pick up. The National Capital Area Council of the BSA has a goal of collecting a million pounds of food this year for the entire metro area. Much of the food collected in Springfield will go to ECHO. It is a vital resource! Please participate.

Help ECHO bring happy holidays to local children whose families are struggling financially. ECHO needs new toys (not gift-wrapped) for children ages 0 to 15 that will be made available for parents/clients to come in by appointment to choose appropriate gifts for their children. We are collecting from now until Tuesday, December 7 at our Donation Door a 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, on weekdays between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or on Tuesday and Thursday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00. We have an Amazon Wishlist for donors who would like to make a purchase to be delivered directly to ECHO. The easiest way to access the wishlist is from our homepage at echo-inc.org. Questions should be directed to ECHOHOLIDAYSHOP@gmail.com.

ECHO's Clothing Department is now welcoming clients who are vaccinated back into the building by appointment to choose clothing for their families. Items in short supply are women's winter

coats, all items of men's clothing in Small or Medium sizes, and men's shoes sizes 7 to 9. Our Housewares Department is low on pots and pans. Used items that are clean and in good repair are welcome- except for underwear and socks. ECHO only distributes new underwear, and we are in need of donations of men's and boys' sizes. 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.

Do you have a few hours a month and an interest in making our community a better place? ECHO is in search of a few volunteers: people interested in organizing donated household items on Friday mornings, or Thursday evenings, or on the first Saturday each month; a Donation Door greeter (able to carry heavy packages) on Friday mornings; people interested in organizing clothing donations and helping clients find the clothing they need on the first Saturday each month; Co-chairs for ECHO's Clothing Program. If you want more information, e-mail Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org.

Upcoming Dates to Note

November 11 - Closed for Veterans Day
 November 15 - Bd of Dir Meeting
 November 21 - Thanksgiving Food Basket deadline
 November 24 - Closed in the evening
 November 25-26- Closed for Thanksgiving
 December 1-9 - Holiday gift program by appointment
 December 19 - Holiday Food Basket deadline
 December 23 - 31 Closed

Congregational and Other Food Drives

November 13 - Scouting for Food Drive
 December - Springfield Chamber of Commerce Food Drive

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

[Find us on Facebook](#)
[Donate Money](#)
[Tips on Holding a Donation Drive](#)
[ECHO's Amazon Wishlist](#)



John 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/lewishsptsa.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 Nov. 17 and Jan. 12. Reach us at admin@lewishsptsa.org, on Twitter [@LewisHSPTSA](https://twitter.com/LewisHSPTSA), or our website.



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!**

Join us for MOVIE NIGHT

Dec. 3rd, 7pm

@ Lewis High
School

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)

MONTHLY FLAP LAKE ACCOTINK PARK CLEAN-UP

WHEN: (2nd Sunday of every month)

TIMES: 9:00am-12:00am

LOCATION: Sign in at one 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

ACTIVITIES: Pick-up trash bags with debris carelessly dumped, dropped and forgotten. Dog waste stations (refill & check stations), vine clipping and more.

Questions? contact@flapaccotink.org

CARING FOR THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

WHEN: (2nd Sunday of every month)

TIME: 10:30am

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

ACTIVITIES: Work alongside our experts as they care for the Pollinator Plants, Watering and Clean-up. We'll provide the tools and gloves or you can bring your own.

REGISTER: https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/186905

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-158892889911>

EXPLORING THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

WHEN: (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.

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

FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK - FLAP:

Board positions are open- It Is YOUR LAKE ACCOTINK PARK help make a difference for about an hour a month! Accepting candidates. Send email to Contact@flapaccotink.org

DONATE TO FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK - FLAP

On-line: www.flapaccotink.org

Mail: FLAP P.O. Box 1203 Springfield VA 22151



SCA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 7:00pm

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82392751657?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82392751657?pwd=MXNOUWR6WE1tTXRzRTE0c2ZGSm5JUT09)

[pwd=MXNOUWR6WE1tTXRzRTE0c2ZGSm5JUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82392751657?pwd=MXNOUWR6WE1tTXRzRTE0c2ZGSm5JUT09)

Meeting ID: 823 9275 1657

Passcode: 944446

No internet connection?

Use one of these numbers to call into the meeting:

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Franconia District Police Station Advice

Avoiding Scams On Classified Ad Sites

Classified ad sites like Craigslist offer a convenient way to buy, sell, rent or find something on a person – to–person basis. However, the conditions that provide convenience can also provide opportunities for scammers. Craigslist offers the rules below for avoiding scams from any classified ad site.

- Do not provide payment to anyone you have not met in person.
- Beware of offers involving shipping—instead, deal with locals you can meet in person.
- Never wire funds (e.g. Western Union) - anyone who asks you to is very likely to be a scammer.
- Don't accept cashier/certified checks or money orders—banks will cash fakes, but then hold you responsible when it fails to clear.
- Transactions are person—person between users only, no third party provides a “guarantee”.
- Never give out financial information (bank account, social security, Paypal account, etc.).
- Do not rent or purchase sight-unseen—that amazing “deal” may not exist.
- Refuse background/credit checks until you have met the landlord or employer in person.

DEAL LOCALLY, FACE-TO-FACE.

FOLLOW THIS ONE RULE AND AVOID 99% OF SCAM ATTEMPTS!





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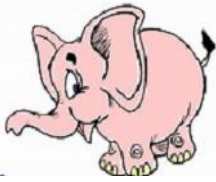
Serving Northern Virginia Since 1989!



Woman's Club of Springfield

The Woman's Club of Springfield is enjoying this club year, as we are able to resume some of our normal activities.

We enjoyed being one of the Hostess Clubs for the Northern District, GFWC Virginia meeting last month at the Springfield Country Club. This was the first in-person meeting in a year and a half. and it was fun to see our friends in person again and enjoy a great speaker and a nice lunch. We always have a Market Place at the Fall District Meeting, where the Clubs can sell their fund raising items. Thanks to the talented members of our Club that participate in our Arts and Crafts workshops each month, we had a beautiful table full of fall pumpkins and other decor. The sales were great and they help to support our Club activities.



We are also happy to report that the Pink Elephant Shop is doing well, enabling us to make contributions this month to Friends of the Richard Byrd Library, Garfield School (gift cards for their winter break food program) and Bethany House of Northern Virginia. If you have not been to the Shop in a while, come in and see what we have. We always have many wonderful bargains and you are sure to find something you need or just can't resist! Check us out on Facebook and our website, www.womansclubofspringfield.org.

And — speaking of Bethany House, we are thrilled to be able to hold our Annual Spring Faire again this year after a two-year hiatus. The Faire will be held at Burke United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 23, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Faire will feature vendors and beautiful craft items. We always hold a door prize drawing to which all of the vendors contribute an item, so we always have twenty plus items to raffle. Mark your calendars now. April will be here before we know it! If you or someone you know would be interested in being a vendor at the Faire, please contact Diana Hooper at 703/913-5602.

We are always looking for new members to join us in serving the community while having a great time. If you are interested in attending one of our meetings to see what we are all about, please contact our Membership Chairman, Melody Corrigan, at 757/286-2426 or e-mail her at melnmoz@hotmail.com.

Trails for Youth

Did you know, from TrailsforYouth.Org

Did you know hundreds of local youth have used Brookfield Park's bicycle skills pump track?

Did you know Brookfield is the only neighborhood bicycle pump track in Fairfax County?

Did you know there is a trail connecting Brookfield Park to the Cross County Trail at Lake Accotink?

Did you know this trail has not been regularly maintained for years and needs some love?

Did you know representatives from the Fairfax County Park Authority, TrailsforYouth.Org and Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts recently engaged in a process to assess the need to improve quality and sustainability of that trail connection?

Did you know this would allow adults and youth from our neighborhood to safely bike and walk to Lake Accotink without having to use the roads?

Did you know we want your feedback on whether you would use this trail?

Did you know this will take resources and volunteers to get it done properly?

Did you know if you want more information you can contact julie@trailsforyouth.org?



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<p>\$3.00 OFF ALTERATIONS (Min. \$10.00)</p> <p>Not valid with any other offer. Must present coupon.</p>	

Volunteer Opportunities

Fairfax County is looking to appoint residents to positions on a number of Boards, Authorities, and Commissions which serve as advisory bodies to the Board of Supervisors.

Tenant Landlord Commission

Purpose: To give objective and fair assistance to the County's tenants and landlords. The Commission provides information to educate the public concerning the rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, recommends changes in the tenant-landlord law at all levels of government, and more.

Learn more [here](#).

Oversight Committee on Distracted and Impaired Driving

Purpose: Seeks to reduce the number of critical injury crashes and reduce the number of fatal crashes related to impaired, drowsy, and distracted driving.

Learn more [here](#).

Heath Onthank Award Selection Committee

Purpose: To grant recognition to County employees for their accomplishments in public service.

Learn more [here](#).

Police Civilian Review Panel (2)

Purpose: To build and maintain public trust and transparency among the police department, the community, and the Board of Supervisors.

Read more [here](#).

Disability Services Board (2)

Purpose: To provide input to state and local agencies on service needs and priorities of persons with physical and sensory disabilities.

Learn more [here](#).

Wetlands Board

Purpose: To preserve wetlands within Fairfax County while accommodating necessary economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation.

Learn more [here](#).

Consumer Protection Commission

Purpose: To advise on consumer affairs issues and provide periodic reports concerning legislation to consider appeals of licensing actions of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Learn more [here](#).

Trespass Advisory Towing Board

Purpose: Advises the Board of Supervisors and provides recommendations to proposed changes related to the trespass towing code.

Learn more [here](#).

Human Rights Commission

Purpose: To enforce ordinance and regulations established to prohibit discrimination.

Learn more [here](#).

To apply: Submit your resume and magisterial district via email to chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please include the name of the BAC in the subject line of the email.

Franconia District Station Contact Information

For crime prevention information or assistance contact:

Franconia District Station Community Outreach and Liaison
Officer:

MPO Eric Nelson [eric.nelson@fairfaxcounty.gov]
703-277-2490

Crime Prevention Officer:

PFC Sean Corcoran [Sean.Corcoran@fairfaxcounty.gov]
703-277-2476

Mental Health Assistance

Fairfax County provides support screening, and assessment via Zoom for Telehealth. This easy-to-use service can be accessed by phone or computer. Services include individual therapy, case management/support coordination, group therapy, psychiatric services, nursing services, pharmacy services, emergency services, homeless drop-in service, detoxification services, residential treatment and crisis stabilization.

703-383-8500 Monday - Friday, 9a.m.-5p.m.

Emergency and Crisis Stabilization services are available 24/7 and can be accessed by calling 703-573-5679.

FOR THE FINEST IN MEATS AND SEAFOOD

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Sat 9:30-6, Sun 10-3**

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WWW.SPRINGFIELDBUTCHER.COM

Who Do You Call For Road Sign Issues?

An alert SCA Facebook member recently noticed a missing “DO NOT ENTER” sign and posted on Facebook asking how to get it replaced. It was a dangerous situation just waiting for an accident to happen. SCA Facebook members quickly reported the situation to VDOT and got the sign replaced the same day! Now that’s citizenship in action!!

If you notice any road sign issues, here’s who to call:

- To report downed, damaged or missing stop signs, call 911
- To report damaged or missing VDOT traffic signs, call VDOT’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-367-7623 around the clock. TTY users can call 711. You can also use this number to report all unsafe and hazardous road conditions, work requests for state maintained roads, or ask questions about VDOT.
- You can also file an online report at: <https://my.VDOT.virginia.gov>. You can also upload pictures online.
- To report local street name sign damage, call Fairfax County Public Works at: **703-877-2800, TTY 711**
- or file an online report at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/street-name-sign-maintenance-form>.



Kudos to Kurt!

SCA Volunteer Kurt Doehnert was the driving force behind getting a new concrete pad, bench, bike rack, and trash can installed at the bus stop on Old Keene Mill Rd. between Commerce St. and Hanover Ave. What a great improvement for our bus riding neighbors. Thanks, Kurt, for all you do to make our neighborhood such a great place to live!



We’re interested in identifying original owners and/or their family to hear their stories and honor them at some time in the near future. If you have the names and contact information, please email us at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com.

We’d like to welcome newcomers to the neighborhood! If you know of someone who has recently moved in, please contact us at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com.

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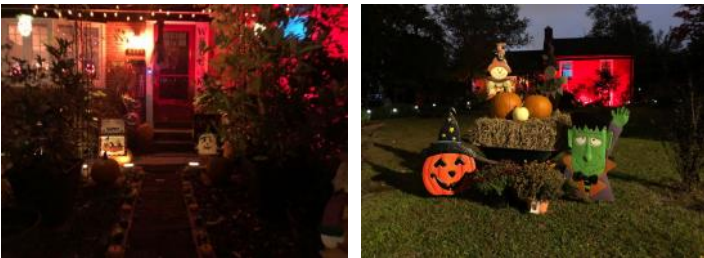
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Thank you to everyone who participated in the Halloween Home Decorating Contest sponsored by the SCA. Board Member Mike Slater is the ghoul who makes this Halloween madness happen. Thanks, Mike!



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Origins of Veterans Day

In 1921, an unknown World War I American soldier was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. This site, on a hillside overlooking the Potomac River and the city of Washington, D.C. became the focal point of reverence for America's veterans.

Similar ceremonies occurred earlier in England and France, where an unknown soldier was buried in each nation's highest place of honor (in England, Westminster Abbey; in France, the Arc de Triomphe). These memorial gestures all took place on November 11, giving universal recognition to the celebrated ending of World War I fighting at 11a.m., November 11, 1918 (the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month). The day became known as "Armistice Day".

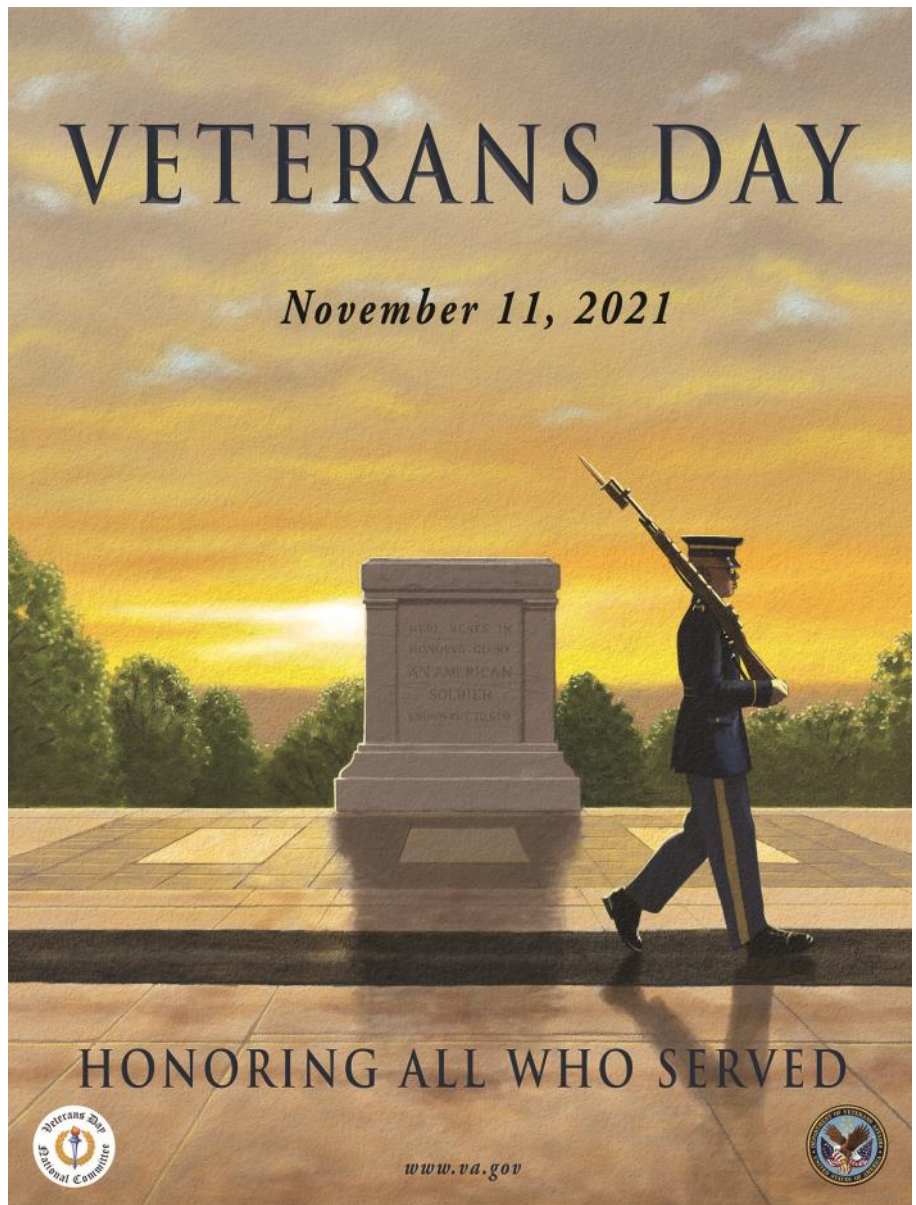
Armistice Day officially received its name in America in 1926 through a Congressional resolution. It became a national holiday 12 years later by similar Congressional action. If the idealistic hope had been realized that World War I was "the War to end all wars", November 11 might still be called Armistice Day. But only a few years after the holiday was proclaimed, war broke out in Europe. Sixteen and one-half million Americans took part. Four hundred seven thousand of them died in service, more than 292,000 in battle.

Armistice Day Changed to Honor All Veterans

The first celebration using the term Veterans Day occurred in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1947. Raymond Weeks, a World War II veteran, organized "National Veterans Day", which included a parade and other festivities, to honor all veterans. The event was held on November 11, then designated Armistice Day. Later, U.S. Representative Edward Rees of Kansas proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day. In 1954, Congress passed the bill that President Eisenhower signed proclaiming November 11 as Veterans Day. Raymond Weeks received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan in November 1982. Weeks' local parade and ceremonies are now an annual event celebrated nationwide.

On Memorial Day 1958, two more unidentified American dead were brought from overseas and interred in the plaza beside the unknown soldier from World War I. One was killed in World War II, the other in the Korean War. In 1984, an unknown serviceman from the Vietnam War was placed alongside the others. The remains from Vietnam were exhumed May 14, 1998, identified as Air Force 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, and removed for burial. To honor these men, symbolic of all Americans who gave their lives in all wars, an Army honor guard, the 3rd US Infantry (The Old Guard) keeps day and night vigil.

A law passed in 1968 changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date.



(Article reprinted from the US Department of Veterans Affairs)

=PR=

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November Meeting

Nov. 16, 2021

7:00 pm via Zoom

Topic:
Healthy Minds-Happy Lives,
Resources for Coping
In Today's World

PLEASE JOIN US!



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.

- Join SCA Renew my membership Add or change contact information
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