

Springfield Reporter

Over 50 Years Serving Central Springfield



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends and neighbors,

Most of you have heard already either via the television, newspaper or a neighbor about the arrests made in the investigation concerning the mortgage fraud in Northern Virginia. The properties and houses were in Alexandria, Falls Church, Annandale and Springfield. The investigation is still ongoing.

We were pleased to arrange an opportunity for Supervisor McKay to speak with our membership. It was difficult to find a place to meet as the school is tied up on many evenings. We appreciate the American Legion's assistance in providing a venue for this community meeting. Please see Supervisor McKay's statement (page 2) and column (page 8) regarding these activities.

This is a victory for the community and the county; however, there is much work left to do. In the meantime what *you* can do is continue to be connected to your community, talk to your neighbors, read your SCA newsletter, visit the SCA website, attend membership meetings and stay engaged! SCA is not a corporation. **YOU** are SCA. We are SCA.



ANNUAL BIZFAIR

Please plan on attending the **Tuesday, November 17th SCA BizFair to be held this year at Springfield Mall.** The Springfield Civic Association is partnering with the Greater Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and the Springfield Mall to bring you a bigger and better business fair! There will be fun activities for the entire family and we are planning an opening ceremony that you won't want to miss. The change emanating from the Springfield Mall will transform our community.

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**NEXT MEETING —
WHEN AND WHERE
November 17, 2009**

**BizFair
Springfield Mall
Penny's Entrance,
Lower Level**

**Meet and Greet: 7 p.m.
Meeting: 7:30 p.m.**

The President's Corner (Continued)

The Marriott's Residence Inn celebrated their grand opening on Wednesday, October 28th at 11:30 am. This beautiful building gives us all a glimpse of our future. The economy has slowed our development progress requiring us all to be patient in the face of delays, but the completed Marriott and the Mall project stoke the fires of our imagination and hope.

Remember, shopping locally is investing in a healthy community and prosperous tomorrow!



STATEMENT BY SUPERVISOR JEFFREY C. MCKAY

The announcement of the largest fraud investigation in Fairfax County's history is great news for our citizens.

This investigation started right here in Lee District when neighbors called my office with concerns that appeared completely out of character with the neighborhood. Subsequent strike team and police investigations uncovered evidence extensive enough to call in the FBI and as we heard today, there is evidence of mortgage fraud in excess of \$100 million dollars involving hundreds of houses throughout the County.

This proves the value of alert and engaged neighborhoods that care about their community. It also illustrates the professionalism of the many different County organizations that worked as a team to bring this investigation to fruition.

It's easy to think of mortgage fraud as just another faceless financial crime. Ask anyone in a community that has been affected and you'll hear about the toll it takes on their

neighborhood. I am proud of our community and our County agencies, police, and FBI who have all worked together to slam the brakes on this crime against neighborhoods.

I would like to thank my Lee District neighbors for their perseverance. We know our neighborhoods and we know when something is not right.

And I say to those who would break our laws—you've picked the wrong County. In this County, we work together to protect our community and our citizens and we stop at nothing to ensure that justice is served.



The police issued the following press release on this event:

POLICE BUST MAJOR MORTGAGE SCHEME

The Fairfax County Police Department, in conjunction with the FBI, has arrested 20 suspects involved in an elaborate fraudulent mortgage operation. One team leader and 15 detectives and agents have been investigating the alleged complaint since November of 2007 when local elected officials contacted the Major Crimes Division of the Criminal Investigation Bureau. The officials received several complaints from constituents regarding small houses being torn down then built into mansions to be used as boarding houses.

The investigation led police on a countywide search through zoning records and permits involving over 200 houses. Many of the permits were issued under the same name. The buyers of the homes allegedly signed fraudulent documents. "Straw buyers," with annual incomes of less than \$25,000, were being approved for loans over \$600,000.

Several of the arrested subjects were part of a criminal enterprise. They were acting in the

capacity of real estate agents, mortgage brokers, and subcontractors. “Straw buyers” were approached and compensated for the use of their unflawed, personal information. The suspects used numerous bank accounts to “float” money into the “straw buyers” accounts so they could qualify for large loan amounts. The house was purchased, torn down, and rebuilt into a mansion sold to a second “straw buyer” for twice the original amount. The house was bought and sold several more times between a network of “straw buyers,” each at higher prices.

Phase I of the investigation ended with arrests relating to 35 houses, valued at \$20 million. Over 200 properties may be involved and the estimated real estate value of the remaining homes is over \$100 million. The majority of the homes were located in the Springfield, Falls Church, Vienna, Annandale, and Alexandria areas of the county.

The FBI joined the investigation in the fall of 2008. Schemes such as the one dismantled today are complex and require a significant amount of resources, far more than any one law enforcement agency can provide. The Fairfax County Police Department partnered with members of the Real Estate Fraud Investigations Task Force in the investigation of this scheme.

The FBI funds 16 such mortgage fraud task forces across the country for the sole purpose of disrupting and dismantling significant criminal enterprises committing mortgage fraud. The real-time collaboration required in this case involved task force members from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, the United States Attorney’s Office and the Common-

wealth Attorney’s Office in Fairfax County.

Seventeen teams of over 100 detectives and agents arrested 20 suspects on Thursday, September 24. The crimes in the arrest warrants include conspiracy to commit wire and mail fraud, using false statements to obtain property or credit, wire fraud, and mail fraud. Convicted suspects of the federal charges could face up to 30 years in prison and fines of up to \$1 million.

Fairfax County Police would like to thank the Washington Field Office of the FBI, the United States Attorney’s Office, the Fairfax County Code Enforcement Strike Team, Fairfax County Sheriff’s Office, Virginia Department of Taxation, Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney’s Office, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the United States Postal Service and the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

The following links provide a list of properties involved as well as those persons arrested on local and federal charges.

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092409.pdf](/police/newsreleases/2009/pdf/Finalproperties_from_fed___charges092409.pdf)

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finalarrestedonlocalcharges.pdf](/police/newsreleases/2009/pdf/finalarrestedonlocalcharges.pdf)

Tawny Hammond, President

Community Handbook Update

Loida Gonzalez,
Community Handbook Chair

A shout-out and thanks to all of the people who volunteered delivering the handbook to homes in Springfield! It has been wonderful to be a part of such a great community effort that brought individuals together to get this project done. So far we have received positive reviews.

I would like to recognize the following individuals who put 'shoe to pavement' and volunteered their time to get the handbook delivered. Some folks have delivered the Handbook to many homes and not just to homes on the street in which they live. Some folks delivered the Handbooks individually and some teamed together. In no special order, the Springfield Civic Association recognizes: Merry Macke, Bill Gaylord, Veronica Ayers, Kurt Doehnert, Alta Mercer, Claudia Moore, Kim Hatfield, Ray Embree, Maribeth Gourley, Tawny Hammond, Virginia Clark, Nancy Allard, Gail Nittle, Al McAloon, Jose, David, William, and Fantz. Names were taken from the master distribution sign-up sheet as written. If I missed your name, please let me know so that we can give you recognition. The Community Handbook was also translated into Spanish and printed with funds from the KPMG Foundation. Rick Gonzalez and I will be presenting to Crestwood and Lynbrook parents during upcoming school events in November. We particularly want to visit with Spanish-speaking parents and distribute the Spanish version Community Handbook.

Out of 2400 homes within our geographical boundaries, only 513 homes remain for receiving the Handbook. This is really great considering that the Handbook has been delivered door-to-door! The Handbook has not

been delivered to homes on the following streets: Ashley, Augusta, Backlick, Byron, Camberly, Clearbrook, Danbury, Dorchester, Edgebrook, Edgerton, Falmouth, Gary, Gilbert, Greenville, Halifax, Hallmark, Hastings, Howe, Inverness, Julian, Lauralin, Mendota, Middlesex, Monticello, and Old Keene Mill. If you live on any of these streets, please consider volunteering an hour of your time to get out and meet your neighbors while delivering the Handbook.

We would prefer to deliver the Community Handbook to the remaining homes in person. **Please note** that the Handbooks were moved from the Lake Accotink Park office, so if you can help deliver Handbooks, please contact me at 202-276-4786 or via email at lgonzalez@kpmg.com to pick up some Handbooks. Our deadline to complete delivery is the end of November. Thanks again for your support and volunteer time!

The Springfield Civic Association is dedicated to promoting community involvement and improvement. It is comprised of 2,400 homes in the area bound by Old Keene Mill Road on the south, I-95 on the east, I-495/Evanston Road on the north, and Lake Accotink Park boundaries on the west.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every other month from September through May at Crestwood Elementary School on Hanover Avenue.

Association dues are \$15 per year. Those interested in joining should contact President Tawny Hammond at (703) 569-0923 or springfield-civic@yahoo.com

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

- Lynbrook** East of Backlick
Captain: Bruce Waggoner
- North** North of Floyd, between Backlick and Hanover
Captain: Chris Colovos
- Central** South of Floyd, between Backlick and Hanover
Captain: Maureen Gibson
- West** North of Floyd, west of Hanover
Captain: Gail Nittle
- South** South of Floyd, west of Hanover
Captain: Debbie Mays

If you would like to join the Neighborhood Watch team, call the Crime Prevention Officer at 703-922-8263 or e-mail Springfield Civic Association at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com. One hour a month is all it takes to be part of the solution. Protect your community. Protect your home and your family.

SALT

The Seniors and Law Enforcement Together Council for the Franconia District Station meets the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in an available space of the Lee District Building at 6121 Franconia Road. Our council is geared to those 50 and over.

JEWELRY THEFTS INCREASE

Fairfax County Police have seen an increase in jewelry thefts in the Sully, Reston, and Fair Oaks Districts over the last few months. Overall burglaries in those areas have dropped by 21%; however, the increase is found in the type of property being stolen, particularly jewelry. Detectives are attributing these thefts to the recent increase in value of all precious metals, including gold, silver, and platinum. Below are some tips to keep your gems safe:

- Always call police if you see people going door to door acting suspiciously
- Keep all valuables out of sight
- Keep jewelry in a secure location
- Keep items made of precious metals secure
- Be mindful when discussing your valuables
- Document valuables with photos and serial numbers
- Always keep home and business entryways locked
- Always be aware of your surroundings

There was a 55% increase in burglaries involving stolen jewelry in those districts over the last year. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Continued on page 6



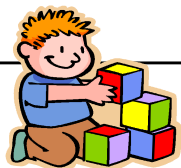
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!

One hour a month is all it takes to be part of the solution. Protect your community. Protect your home and your family.

Neighborhood Watch, Continued

CAC: The Citizens' Advisory Committee for the Franconia District Station meeting was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 (the third Wednesday of the month), at 7:30 pm in the **Helen Wilson Community Room** in of the Lee District Building at 6121 Franconia Road. A social period beginning at 7:00pm preceded the meeting.

MODIP: The Fairfax County Police Department offers residents 55 years of age and older enrollment in the Mature Operator's Driver Improvement Program (MODIP). This eight hour course, which provides safe driving information, is sanctioned by the American Automobile Association (AAA) and is presented by certified Fairfax County Auxiliary Police Officers. Upon completion of this course, drivers are eligible for the Virginia State-mandated insurance premium reduction (check with individual insurance carriers for the amount). The classes are normally held the second Saturday of each month at the Franconia District Station. The next seminar is scheduled at the Franconia District Station, located at 6121 Franconia Road, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on **November 14, 2009**. Registration is required and can be done by contacting the MODIP reservations line at (703) 924-6588.)



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CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Do you want to attend Springfield Civic Association meetings but wonder what to do with the children? Our trained child care staff can provide videos, coloring books, and some light crafts in the school while you enjoy the company and informative discussion.



Springfield Civic Association has been working to save the cost of printing and mailing your newsletter. Over half of our membership now receives The Springfield Reporter by e-mail. If you would like the SCA to spend your dues on community improvement projects rather than printing and postage to mail the newsletter, you can choose to receive your newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address, name and street address to springfield-civic@yahoo.com today!

ATTEND A MEETING, WIN A DOOR PRIZE!

Attend the November 17th meeting and be eligible to win one of many gift certificates graciously donated by some of our own Springfield merchants.

The Springfield Civic Association offers door prizes at every meeting. Drawings are held at 9:00 P.M. You must be present to win.

We encourage you to patronize these generous, civic-minded businesses.

SCHOOL NEWS

Crestwood Elementary
Mary Person,
Principal

Crestwood has been very busy as we begin our 2009-2010 school year. We have just completed our annual School Improvement Plan that outlines our academic strategies for the 2009-2010 school year. This plan incorporates annual data to implement our course of action for continued academic improvement. One of our goals is to begin a paper recycling program at our school. We realize the value of fostering respect and responsibility for our school and community.

A Fairfax County Public School county-wide recycling program, started in 2008, provided recycling receptacles for classrooms and workspaces. However, a school-wide recycling program was never fully developed at Crestwood Elementary School. During the 2008-2009 academic year, members of our Student Council Association voted to instate a recycling program as a way to contribute to the community. Data will be collected over the course of the upcoming academic year to monitor and encourage paper recycling by all students and staff. We hope the Springfield Civic Association will join us in this project.

Again this year, we will sponsor two clean-up days. The first clean-up day will occur on November 21st from 9:00-12:00. The second day for cleanup will occur in the spring and the community will be notified. We invite you to join us as we work

to learn and keep our school a great place in which to grow and work.

Remember, we are always looking for volunteers to help with various programs with our students. If you are interested in becoming a Crestwood volunteer, please call our office at 703-923-5400. You will find that volunteering can be very rewarding and with benefits that go beyond the classroom!

We are focused on making every day count and excited that we have had an outstanding start to our new school year!

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RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY

6315 Backlick Road, Second Floor
Springfield, VA 22150
703-451-8055

By Branch Manager Sandy Freund

The renovation of the Richard Byrd Library remains on schedule. The contractor is installing some of the drywall and wiring conduits, internal and external doors, and the HVAC and other building systems. Outside, the remaining curb and gutter and the base parking will be installed within the month. Metal siding will be added to the exterior within the next couple of weeks. In general, the plan is to complete the outside work before the arrival of winter weather, and then work on the inside of the building.

In November and December, we are offering the following programs at the Backlick Road site:

Thursday, November 19, 10:30 a.m.
P is for Pilgrims and Pumpkin Pie. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult.

Thursday, December 10, 10:30 a.m.
C is for Candle. Holiday stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult.

Wednesday, December 16, 6:00 p.m.
Tell It Again. Enjoy a holiday story in English and Spanish. Music and activities. Age 4-12 with adult.

Wednesday, December 23, 1:00 p.m.
Travel Club. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults.

Registration is required for all programs except the Travel Club. Beginning two weeks before each program, please register by calling the library at 703-451-8055 or online at the library's website at:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY

**NO ROOM IN LEE DISTRICT FOR
MORTGAGE FRAUD AND BOARDING HOUSES**

Thursday, September 24, marked a huge victory for the residents of Lee District and Fairfax County. What began years ago right here in Lee District resulted in the largest fraud investigation in the history of Fairfax County! Astute citizens, my office, multiple county departments, the police, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies have been working behind the scenes for two years to research, find, and now arrest perpetrators of mortgage fraud and illegal boarding houses throughout this county. Keeping silent during the two years of this criminal investigation was politically difficult but it was worth it not to undermine the case.

There's been no lack of community concern and anger, and tempers—including mine—have flared over the proliferation of illegal boarding McMansions in our communities. While I sought and achieved widespread operational changes in our zoning enforcement and Strike Team operations, zoning enforcement challenges still remained, leaving a sour taste in the mouths of communities. While operationally we are now better off, it was critical that we seek criminal prosecution of those who engaged in mortgage fraud to create hundreds of boarding houses. While we needed zoning enforcement to take place, criminally prosecuting mortgage fraud was key, and I insisted that both occur simultaneously. That's important because mortgage fraud isn't just another faceless financial crime. Ask anyone in a community that has been affected, and you'll hear about the toll it takes on their neighborhood. I am proud of our community and our County agencies,

police, and FBI who have all worked together to slam the brakes on this crime against neighborhoods.

What does all this mean? It means that citizens—who know their communities and know when something is not right—can change the face of government. Democracy is alive and well in Lee District and to my constituents I say, I heard your concerns, I agreed with your concerns, and what may have sometimes seemed minor has turned into a vast collection of fraudulent actions involving a potential loss of over \$100 million to mortgage lenders. We have devoted enormous county resources to this effort because we care about our citizens and we will protect our neighborhoods.

In Lee District, and in Fairfax County, the message is clear: If you run an illegal boarding house and are engaged in mortgage fraud, we will find you, we will prosecute you, and justice will be served. I thank those communities who have been under assault by frauds running boarding houses for their patience. I always said we would win this battle, protect our neighborhoods, and regain faith in the County's ability to fight for our citizens.

District-Wide Community Parking District Approved in Lee District

In January 2009, I asked for community input about creating a district-wide community parking district (CPD) that would cover all of Lee District and prohibit the parking of boats and RVs on residential streets. A CPD would increase pedestrian and traffic safety and save communities from the cumbersome and lengthy petition process that was required to

create a parking district. Since that January meeting, I have spoken with many Lee communities and citizens about this proposal and asked about it on my Lee District questionnaire. Community input has been overwhelmingly in favor of this.

On October 19, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing on a Lee District CPD. Following testimony, letters, and emails from Lee District residents, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved creating the CPD.

What Residents Need to Know

The Lee District large area CPD will go into effect on November 18. For the next month (until December 18,) Fairfax County Police will place warning notices on any boats or RVs parked on residential streets. From December 18 on, the police will issue 48-hour warnings to move the illegally parked vehicles. Should a vehicle not be moved, the police will issue a parking ticket and the vehicle will be towed 48 hours after the ticket is issued.

This CPD does not prevent residents from parking their boats and RVs in their driveways or at storage facilities. For more detailed information about the new CPD, please call Joan Clark in my office (703-971-6262) or email joan.clark@fairfaxcounty.gov.

I thank all who shared their opinions on parking restrictions with me through this process. This new parking restriction will help to make our neighborhoods safer.

You can reach Supervisor McKay at 703-971-6262 or by e-mail at leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Santa Visits Lake Accotink Park

December 19, 2009



Pet Pictures with Santa

1 - 2 pm

Don't leave your animal friend out of the photo! Have your dog, cat or other pet's photo taken with Santa. Photos will be taken digitally on a 3.5" disk.

Registration fee: \$5 per pet

Santa's Hayride

3 - 8 pm



Enjoy a horse or tractor - drawn wagon ride, visit with Santa and tell him what's on your wish list (Parents: Please bring a camera.), enjoy hot chocolate and an outdoor holiday movie (beginning at 5 pm).

Registration fee: \$8 per person
(Babies on laps are free.)

Please note: Hayride times will be pre-assigned.

TO REGISTER:

**Registrations must be made
in advance.**

Please call 703-569-0285, TTY 703-569-5200 to pay by Visa or MasterCard. Refunds must be requested two weeks in advance. After two weeks, refunds will not be granted.

Lake Accotink Park



7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield,
Virginia 22150

703-569-0285, TTY 703-569-5200



If ADA accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354

Community Ads and Recommendations



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Web Site: www.RubDown.Info

Phone: 703.909.0299 for an appointment and information

Community Ads and Recommendations



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Springfield, Virginia 22153



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Local References

703-463-4375

Low prices and reliable service

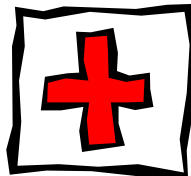
The Springfield Reporter features a personal ad section for the community. The cost is \$45 a square. If you would like to place an ad of your own here, please contact Tawny Hammond at 703-569-0923.

Springfield Civic Association
P.O. Box 842
Springfield, VA 22150

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JOIN THE VOICE
OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

Blood Drive Sponsored by the
American Red Cross
“Come give the gift of life”



The American Red Cross will be sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, December 17, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The blood drive will be held at American Legion Post 176 in Springfield. If you would like more information ,

PLEASE CONTACT
Joe Finch at 703-569-1552

The Springfield Civic Association would like to thank the students and faculty at Key Center School for printing the newsletter.
Thank you!

ANUNCIO

La Asociación Civica de Springfield le invita a una FERIA DE NEGOCIOS el 17 de noviembre a las 7:00 p.m. en el Moll de Springfield, en el nivel inferior fuera de la entrada a JCPenney. Es una oportunidad para conocer y soportar los negociantes de Springfield.