

the Village **Crier**

Volume 16

January 2009

West Springfield Village News . . .

From the President - John Cooley - 2008 was a very good year in many respects, but I hope we can continue to improve our Village during 2009. I thought about community resolutions and came up with the following; maybe you can add some more.

1. Increase the number of residents we can talk to via e-mail. Granted, some do not use e-mail, but it is the fastest way to get news out. We can now talk to about 300 residents, but that leaves us 133 who aren't aware of breaking news on such matters as Rolling Road, our community schools and county actions that directly impacts each of us such as tax levy increases.

a. Our Springfield District Supervisor, **Pat Herrity**, hosted a meeting to discuss with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on-street parking for those whose property abuts Rolling Road. Supervisor Herrity sent letters to each of the 57 homes along Rolling who will bear the brunt of the widening project, but we had 27 Rolling Road residents who could not be reached with e-mail reminders. The consequence was that only nine residents came to that meeting. You can still provide input, but to do so, you need to get it to **Peyton Onks** at peyton.Onks@fairfaxcounty.gov. She can also be reached at 703/451-8873.

b. Community-Wide Parking District - We had announced another opportunity for all residents to comment on whether or not they supported restricted curbside parking for recreational vehicles, boats, trailers and oversized vehicles for the entire Springfield Magisterial District. You still have time to input your opinion – also to Peyton Onks.

c. Even if you chose not to join the Civic Association, we still need to be connected by e-mail. Please send me (john.t.cooley@verizon.net) your contact information. When you get your next Community Directory, you'll notice a marked increase in residents who opted to include their

e-mail addresses, but for those who did not: We keep e-mail addresses strictly confidential and use them only for Association business.

2. Reduce crime. We had too much crime during 2008; perhaps the highest crime since our Village was built. We now know that some high school athletic teams and clubs cause younger students to steal or conduct random vandalism as part of an initiation. The police attribute the theft of flags to such. But we also had cars stolen and property taken or destroyed. Such crimes point to a more serious situation.

3. Improve neighbor-to-neighbor support. This alone will help the overall appearance of our Village, increase security awareness and develop a safer environment for our children. Do you know your neighbors – not just by name, but also by their daily routines? Are you aware when they have contractors working on their home or a crew moving items out of their home? Do you know which neighbors may need help with snow shoveling or which ones you can call to help you if you are in need? If not, make an effort to know them and to also provide them your routine and other information they may need to help safeguard your home and family.

Upcoming Activities:

May 16 - Community Yard Sale (Rain Date is May 30)

May 21 - General Membership Meeting at Rolling Valley Elementary

June 6 - Community Cleanup

4. Increase support for our Civic Association and the schools where our children study. Your Civic Association exists only to promote the community interest of Village residents. It is a voluntary organization that often needs volunteers to conduct its business. And, our community is larger than just

our 433 homes. Our children's schools have to be included in our sense of community and we need to help them as may be needed.

My wife and I are very grateful to have friends we also call "neighbor" and neighbors we can count on if/when needed.

Neighborhood Watch - Thanks to **Toan Pham**, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator **Jeff Carter**, **Dave Denison**, **Dick Denny** and **Susan Burkhalter** for patrolling our Village recently. There are several of us who will partner with first timers. Some ladies in the past had used the Neighborhood Watch as a "Ladies Night Out." We try to have at least two in the car, but heard that the ladies often had three, four or as many as the car could hold. If you did not patrol in 2008 or haven't yet in 2009, it's your turn. Jeff can be reached at 703/569-8784 or at Watch@westspringfieldvillage.org. Also, program 703/691-2131, the police non-emergency number, into your cell phone. Use your cell phone camera to record information that the police will need (make, model and color of car; license plate number, etc).

Since the last *Village Crier*, we have had too much crime within our village. At least two cars were stolen and several were broken into to steal items. Too many cars and private properties were also vandalized with graffiti, eggs and paintballs. Report all violations to the police, no matter how insignificant it may seem.

We still receive complaints about dogs barking late into the night and very early in the morning. Quiet hours run from 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. the following morning. Please be considerate of your neighbors. If all else fails, report barking dogs to the Police non-emergency number (703/691-2131), but please first talk to your neighbor. We should be able to resolve these type of issues by ourselves.

October General Membership Meeting - Look for the minutes of this meeting on our website (www.westspringfieldvillage.org). We had two presentations, ratified the FY08 Audit, passed a budget for this Fiscal Year and elected a new Board of Directors. And, as promised, we started smartly at 7:30 p.m. and finished by 9:00 p.m. Thanks to all who attended the meeting. It was our best crowd in recent memory.

Membership - We had hoped all 433 homes would want to join, but we got 313 members out of our realistic goal of 350. We came close in our first attempt at doing the drive without Block Captains. Special thanks to our Membership Chair **Julia Hale**. Knowing Julia, it will work even better in

future drives. Thanks to all who joined or renewed your membership in our Civic Association. And, those who did not join are invited to join and become an active member of our Association.

If you have a new neighbor who arrived after Nov. 1, please let us know. They receive full voting rights in the Association for the rest of this membership year (ends Sept. 30). We will need their last name(s), first names, address, phone number and e-mail address.

Community Directory - Those who joined or renewed their membership in our Civic Association are entitled to a copy of our Community Directory. You should receive your copy of the Directory along with this *Village Crier*. Please let me know (john.t.cooley@verizon.net) if you did not. Special thanks to Community Directory Editor **Jane Ray** for another fine directory. Jane would like to know if you have any recommendations on how we can improve the directory – or if you notice errors.

She can be reached at 703/451-7772 or Directory@westspringfieldvillage.org. Those who did not join can still receive a copy of the Directory for \$10 and a completed membership form.

Directory Advertisements - If we had to pay for printing the Directory, it would cost about \$1,400. Thankfully, the printing shop we use sells ad space that covers the entire cost for us. Let the advertisers know that you saw their ad in our community directory and picked them for supporting our Village. It surely makes it easier to finance future directories.

Holiday Decorating Contest - It was another difficult year for judges to pick the top three home decorations. We had more in contention than in any other year I can remember. Thanks to the judges and to **Anne Walker** for tabulating their responses. Honorable Mention goes to: 8137 & 8139 Edmonton Court, 6811 Hathaway Street, 6811 & 6813 Landor Lane, 6702, 6804, 6805, 6814 & 6906 Ontario Street, 6724 & 6919 Rolling Road, 6904 Smyth Street, 7905 & 8135 Springfield Village Drive and 6901 Vancouver Road. All were very well done and provided a good show and fun family entertainment.

* 1st Place in the 2008 Holiday Decorating Contest was "Candy Cane Corner," **John & Carol Baccari** at 6808 Ontario Street

* 2nd Place went to **Mike & Carol Gallagher** at 6809 Ontario Street

* 3rd Place went to **Russell & Kim Hilliard** at 8305 Wythe Lane.

Santa's Visit to our Village - As we had hoped, Santa did visit us at **Don & Susan Cheney's** Ontario Street home. Santa distributed gifts to our children while parents enjoyed the nice warming fire in Don's outdoor fireplace and Susan's Christmas treats and refreshments. I think all who were there join me in thanking Santa and the Cheney's for opening their home to Village residents.

Susan's pictures are ready, so you can stop by to pick up the picture of your child with Santa.

Christmas Caroling - Hearty souls kicked off Santa's visit to the Village by caroling neighbors from **Jason & Kerri Henry's** Edmonton Court home to the **Cheney's** home. What joy it was to hear our children sing. These are great traditions and certainly help us feel closer as a community. Thanks Jason & Kerri

Halloween Rainout - Our annual Halloween Parade and Party was rained out. **Wendi Dorey** must be losing her magical powers. She had stopped the rain in 2006 and 2007, but not last year. She and others, however, did set up a mega Trick or Treat headquarters on Halloween night. I can speak for our children who stopped by her home by simply saying, "thanks Wendi."

Pohick Stream Park Cleanup - On a crisp, sunny and breezy morning on Oct. 18, ten people under the auspices of the CAWSV devoted three hours to removing trash from the Pohick Stream Valley Park adjacent to West Springfield Village. The collected debris filled sixteen trash bags. Participants got some exercise and experienced nature – with sightings of deer, chipmunk, box turtle and fish. Four Washington Irving Middle School students earned community service credit.

Many thanks to these participants: **Ayan Ali, Lauren Bishop, Scarlett Bishop, Kathy Ciro, Vince Ciro, John Cooley, Tyler Hilliard, Steve Johnson, Paul Kemp** and **Ed Wyse**. Special thanks to Association Secretary **Ed Wyse** for supervising this event.

Transition Health Policy - **Ed Thomas** (Bellamy Avenue) was asked by the Transition Health Policy Team to host health care discussions in a small local gathering in which friends and neighbors could share thoughts and ideas about reforming the nation's health care. President-elect **Barrack Obama** and Health and Human Services Secretary-designate **Tom Daschle** wanted input from Americans from every walk of life to help identify what's broken and provide ideas for how to fix it. Thanks to those who met with Ed & Shirley

in support of this grass roots effort, especially **Barbara Barrington** and **Beth Everetts** for their insights as an employer and also as an employee.

Digital TV Transition - **Dick Denny** (Edmonton Court) - On Feb. 17, all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital format. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels. If you have a TV that uses rabbit ears or an aerial antennae and have not ordered your free coupons (each worth \$40 towards the purchase of a converter box), I recommend you do so now. Just call 1-888/388-2009 or go to www.DTV2009.gov. I was able to buy a converter box at Wal-Mart for \$12.36 with the \$40-off coupon.

Storm Water Drain (SWD) Intakes - Leaves, dog poop and other types of trash do not belong in curbside SWD intakes or those in many of our back yards. Stop your contractors from blowing leaves or dumping waste construction materials into the intakes. All that goes into the intakes goes directly to Pohick or Accotink Streams and into our drinking water supply. That is, if the storm water main pipes aren't plugged with leaves, dog poop and garbage. Then we have another problem, a very big problem for the homeowner where the 39-inch pipe is plugged.

Fairfax County's Online Complaint Form - This can be found at <http://66.179.23.21/DP1/Metroplex/FairfaxCounty/customerservice/selectbyservno.asp>. Use it to anonymously report violations of the Fairfax County Code. A list of common neighborhood concerns and violations can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/concerns.htm. There you can select other languages to access the same information in a language of your choice. I still believe it best to try to sort things out with your neighbor, but if that isn't possible – use the complaint form.

Gardening Website (www.garden.org/home) - Our resident Master Gardener, **Pat Aunon** (Vancouver Road), found this website and some great things within it. Check it out and don't forget to enter our zip code to get regional information pertinent to our area, climate and soil. Pat says it is a great website.

Contractor Recommendation - **Gerald & Mary Eskelund** had new windows installed throughout their house. They used TransNational Corporation, a local company located on Franconia Road. They have been in business 23 years. The Eskelund's were impressed that they worked around their

schedule and thoroughly cleaned up inside and outside the house. TransNational representatives also returned to check the work and to answer Gerald and Mary's questions. You can find other contractor recommendations on our website, www.westspringfieldvillage.org.

Another Original Owner Story - Marilyn Sullivan reported that she moved into their Bellamy home in June of 1966. The general contractor's plan allowed her to move her driveway so it emptied onto Bellamy rather than Rolling Road; a decision she now calls serendipitous with the expected widening of Rolling Road. She said that she would visit her lot practically everyday to make sure Mr. Yokum, the foreman on the project, had not removed the trees that she marked to be saved.

Village Crier Distributors - thanks to those who distributed the October *Crier* and to those delivering this edition door to door. If you see **Kim Brown, Kathleen Cheney, Susan Reidinger, Dick Denny, Liz Greene, Julia Hale, Leanna Wilson, Anne Carter and Larry Mark** (your *Crier* editor), thank them for volunteering their time to deliver our Village news. This is also a great way for our children to earn community service hours.

Recycle Bank - Those with AAA Trash & Recycling service should by now be in their recyclebank program. Even though you have the blue-topped, 60-gallon toter for recycling use, each of us have to activate our recyclebank account. It is painless and will take only a few minutes. Visit www.Recyclebank.com to begin accruing points for recycling.

Those new recycling toters have a radio-frequency identification (RFID) chip mounted on the container. AAA's trucks were retrofitted to read the RFID chip and weigh the contents of your cart. This weight turns into redeemable "points." There is no need to sort your recyclables. You can place paper, plastic, cans and bottles all in the same container.

AAA reports that with RecycleBank the average amount recycled is about 20 pounds per week (almost double than regular recycling). That would equate to about \$20-\$25 per month - \$250 per year - in "cash-off" Reward Coupons, but we are capped at a \$500 limit per year. Points can be redeemed for coupons from more than a hundred local grocery stores, restaurants and retailers who are involved in the rewards for this program. To learn more, visit www.RecycleBank.com, click on "My Rewards," scroll to the bottom and click on "Virginia." Many have said that they do not want to use the coupons that recyclebank will make available. But you can

designate 100 points to a school. That school gets \$10 for every 100 points donated. None of our schools are designated as "green" in this program yet, but I hope to add them this year.

What Can We Recycle? - Plastic bottles and jugs with a neck, metal food cans and containers, pill bottles, glass bottles and jars, soda bottles and cans, junk mail, mixed paper, magazines and catalogs, flattened cardboard, newspapers, phone books, cereal and cracker boxes.

What Can Not be Recycled? - Pizza boxes, plastic food boxes or trays, foam take-out containers, hardback books, plastic plates and napkins, lids, caps, tops, ceramics, light bulbs, prescription vials, pots and pans and alkaline batteries.

Yard Waste Collection - Wednesday collections of yard waste is finished for the winter. Only Christmas trees will be picked up on Jan.14. Yard waste will now be removed with household trash on Thursdays. Be sure to separate yard debris and household trash. Wednesday collection of yard waste will start again on March 1.

Rolling Road Widening Project - It's still on. Our Board of Supervisors can make changes to the 6-Year Plan based on the dwindling transportation money. That review will take place in March at the Fairfax County Government Center. Supervisor **Pat Herrity** and Delegate **Dave Albo** tasked VDOT to replace the planned eight-foot multi-modal asphalt path that was to be put on the western side of Rolling Road with a five-foot cement sidewalk. That may mean that the utility cables can not be buried under a five-foot sidewalk.

If not and if the utilities are to be buried, it will mean a larger utility easement for each property abutting Rolling Road. We had nine homeowners represent the 57 Village homes with property abutting Rolling Road at a meeting to discuss whether or not to include six-foot parking lanes along Rolling Road from Barnack Drive to Viola Street on the west side of the road bed and from just north of Glover Court south to Viola Street on the east side. There is to be another two-foot curb and gutter splash that will leave an eight-foot area for parking. You may still have time to e-mail your input and vote to **Peyton Onks** at peyton.Onks@fairfaxcounty.gov.

If the project survives the Board of Supervisors' review next March, property acquisition should start this year. Even though the community input meetings have come and gone, some Village residents believe this project can be stopped. **Walter Lin** (Ontario Street) has set up a website

(<http://rollingroadnorth.blogspot.com>) to serve as an archive on arguments against widening Rolling Road. Walter and others hope you will visit that website to cut and paste key points, or use one of the two letter templates to write an e-mail/letter to local officials.

This project will also address the northbound bottleneck at Old Keene Mill Road. VDOT will extend the left turn lane on northbound Rolling Road back toward us to this side of the Sunoco Gas Station and adjust the left turn signal accordingly.

Baby Sitters Needed - We receive a lot of inquiries about baby sitting. There is a list of names on our website (www.westspringfieldvillage.org), but we'd like to add even more. If you or your older children provide babysitting services and are not on that list, contact our Village Webmaster **Steve Stark** at webmaster@westspringfieldvillage.org to be added.

Blizzard Bingo - Rolling Valley PTA's Blizzard Bingo is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 20. Remember last year's event? It was a family fun evening. This year will be even better! Join us for a fun family night out. Pizza and assorted foods will be served at a modest price.

Donations Needed for Blizzard Bingo - Do you have any new, unused and in original packaging items we can use for prizes? Many of us have extra holiday, birthday or family gifts we forget to return or can't use. (Examples include: DVD's, books, board games, stuffed animals, posters, sporting equipment, gift cards you won't use, etc.) Please save these gifts to donate to the PTA as prizes. Your donation is tax deductible! Contact **Jill Foster** at blizzardbingo@live.com or by phone at 703/725-7038.

School News . . .

Designate Local Schools on Giant's A+ BonusBucks - This is a painless, closed-wallet way to financially support local schools. With Giant's A+ BonusBucks, points accrue with each purchase that uses the Giant Card, including on-line Peapod purchases. At the end of each month, these points determine your school's cash total, which is automatically credited to its account. If you have a Giant Card, go to www.giantfood.com/aplus/ to designate one or more schools to receive points from your purchases. The instructions are easy to follow. Rolling Valley Elementary School is #02090. West Springfield ES is #020941, Irving Middle School is #02093 and Keene Mill Gifted & Talented Center is #02088. West Springfield High School is #02095. You can also register at the customer service counter in local Giant Food

Stores. And, once you register the school of choice, it receives credit from purchases at all Giant stores, not just the one where you registered.

Box Tops for Education - Want to help our schools and respective PTAs without having to open your wallet? Cut out and save those Boxtops for Education you see on several brand name products. Give them to your child or a neighbor's child to take to their school. Each is worth 10 cents, but don't assume it's not worth the effort. Rolling Valley Elementary School recently turned in more than \$800 worth of boxtops!

Escript (www.escript.com) - If you have a Safeway Club Card and shop at Safeway, you can also gain points that translate into money for designated schools. I am only familiar with the Rolling Valley Elementary School group name "Rolling Valley Elementary School" and its group ID 6559059. Please let me know the same for West Springfield Elementary School, Washington Irving Middle School, Keene Mill Gifted & Talented Center and West Springfield High School and I'll publish those in the next e-news. There are other companies that participate in escript; they can be found at the website listed above.

School Representatives Needed - If your child attends West Springfield or Keene Mill Elementary School, Irving Middle School or West Springfield High School, we'd like to include articles and announcements from your child and/or their school in our e-news. Please get them to **John Cooley** by Wednesday of each week.

Board of Directors FY 2009

John Cooley, President	451-7055
Shawn Klimek, Past President	569-6328
Bridget Simpkins, Vice President	569-6814
Liz Greene, Treasurer	866-0445
Ed Wyse, Secretary	569-3372

Village "People News" . . .

50th Wedding Anniversary - Bill & Deanna Harvey (Ontario Street) will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 17. They took their children and each of their ten grandchildren on a western Caribbean cruise over New Years to commemorate this upcoming special time. Congratulations Bill & Deanna!

Anya Jolie Davis - Ahmad & Regina Davis (Edmonton Court) welcomed the latest addition to their family, a daughter who was born on Oct. 28.

She weighed in at 8 lbs and measured 20 inches long. **Amiyha, Alana & A.J.** were all excited to meet their new little sister!

New Neighbors - Christina & Randy Harmeyer recently moved into 6908 Ontario Street. Stop by to say hello and help welcome them to our Village!

Village Notary Public - Ellen Pittman and Eugenia Fernandez-Caro (Harland Drive) are both notary publics for Virginia. Eugenia is a Spanish teacher and can translate for Spanish. Perhaps you have a Middle or High School student who may benefit from her tutoring services. They can be reached by phone at 703/451-1662.

Tutoring Service - We have a well-qualified tutor available to help raise our children's grades. **Annie Sinisi** provides quality private and group tutoring for children in kindergarten through the fifth grade in any educational subjects to include SOL preparation. Her charges are negotiable. She can be reached via e-mail at annie.sinisi@fcps.edu.


Fish Tank Needed - Our Treasurer, **Liz Greene**, needs to borrow a fish tank (preferably 20-gallon size) for a few days. She is trying to move a 75-gallon tank, and needs a tank to keep the fish in until she can get her tank moved and set back up. She does not need filters and such, just the tank for the fish to live in for a few days while she gets things rearranged for them. Contact Liz at greenefamily5@verizon.net or by phone at 703/866-0445.

Free - Bob Lomax (Edmonton Court) has six Hoover W2 HEPA filtration bags, part #43555114, free to anyone who would like to have them. The bags are for a Hoover "WindTunnel 2" Bagged Upright Vacuum Cleaner. Bob can be reached at 703/569-4025.

Family News from the Association President:

Julian Paul Briggs - My first grandchild was born to my daughter **Elizabeth (Cooley) Briggs** and her husband **Tom** on Nov. 13. Julian weighed in at 8 lbs, 5 oz and was 20.5 inches in length. They live in San Luis Obispo, Calif.

USAF Captain Glenn Cooley graduated Test Pilot School on Dec. 13 at Edwards Air Force Base. He also earned another Master's Degree at that school. He and his wife **Kerry** will give me a second grandchild any day now. Life is good; isn't it?



Kriebel Family
703-644-1434
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Serving our neighbors
in West Springfield Village
Residents since 1988

PET CARE
Mid-day walks
or while-you're-away

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