



Volume 15

October 2008

West Springfield Village News . . .

From the President - John Cooley - You'll see in this edition that we have become a target for criminal activity. Given the nature of the crimes, the perpetrators may be teenagers or young adults. I hope to not have to report one of our children being incarcerated for this misconduct or, worse yet, hurt in the commission of these senseless acts.

This year, we tried to conduct the membership drive without Block Captains for a host of reasons, but I have to admit we're far away from our objective and our 100-percent participation goal. A membership form makes up the back page of this *Crier*; send it in with a check for your \$10 dues. If you need someone to visit your home, let me know and either Membership Chair **Julia Hale** or I will stop by – at your convenience. If you aren't sure if you have joined or renewed, call me at 703/451-7055.

Are you in the e-news loop? I can't see why anyone who has access to a computer and the Internet would not want to be in this communications loop. All you have to do is send your e-mail address to me (john.t.cooley@verizon.net). We send out the weekly Village e-news with information about what is going on in our community.

We will elect a new Board of Directors at the October membership meeting. Would you care to take on the duties of one of the Board positions (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer)? The fifth member of the Board is the Past President, who does not require an election. Check with the current members of the Board if you want to discuss duties and time required to serve in each capacity. Members of the Executive Committee are appointed and do not require a membership vote.

Upcoming Activities:

18 - 9 a.m.-Noon, Pohick Stream Park Cleanup

**23 - 7:30 p.m., General Membership Meeting
at Rolling Valley Elementary School (RVES)**

**25 - 11 a.m., Halloween Parade and Party,
RVES Parking Lot**

25 - 4:30 p.m., RVES Haunted House/Fun Fair
We'll also ask you, the general membership, to approve a budget for the FY09 membership year. I hope to see you at the meeting on October 23.

Crime in our Village - Since the last *Village Crier* in July, we have had an unusually high incidence of crime. Consider the following:

* Someone threw eggs at parked cars along Barnack Drive, Vancouver Road and Springfield Village Drive

* We had a police incident at the corner of Bellamy Avenue and Brisbane Street involving police crouched behind cars with their guns drawn. They were trying to arrest two males, apparently a result of a massive search warrant.

* **Andrew Bilski** (Springfield Village Drive) had both of his flags and their staffs stolen.

* **Diana Serres** (Barnack Drive) reported that their American flag and pole were stolen.

* **Bill & Thalia Stevenson** (Elkton Drive) reported that their lawn sprinklers were stolen.

* **Gregg Rupkalvis** (Barnack Drive) - Family flag was stolen.

* **Jeff Snyder** (Ontario Street) reported that his Evercool work truck was broken into and his tools taken. The truck's door was also damaged.

* **Karin Smith** (Barnack Drive) - Somebody threw eggs at her van.

* **Glenn Demarr** (Barnack Drive) reported that a decorative seasonal flag and its staff were removed from display on the front of his house.

* Someone poured a can of motor oil over **Mickie Sullivan's** car parked along Springfield Village Drive. Her car was also keyed with graffiti.

* The top of a bird bath was taken from a property along Wythe Lane.

* **Louise Calise** (Dante Court) reported that a propane gas tank (which was full) was stolen from their BBQ grill on their back deck!

* **Shirley Thomas** (Bellamy Avenue) reported that her flag was stolen.

* **Erol Beynam** (Vancouver Road) discovered that someone had taken the decorative soccer team flag he had in front of his home.

* **Theresa Ott** (Barnack Drive) reported that their flag was stolen.

* **Constance Genne** (Elkton Drive) also had a flag and flagpole stolen..

* **Stephen Johnson** (Barnack Drive) had his flag stolen.

* **Debbie McKay** (Barnack Drive) reported that her decorative flag was stolen, apparently during the early morning hours.

* A catalytic converter was taken off a parked SUV

along Rolling Road. SUVs are the most likely target for this item since the thieves can slide under to steal without having to jack the vehicle up.

* **Mike & Laura Bentley** (Barnack Drive) reported their American flag was stolen.

* **Stephen Gagliano** (Barnack Drive) reported that someone broke into his van and stole some things.

* **VA License Plate JJL 9638**. A late model, 4-door sedan was used by a group of teenagers or young men to flee from somewhere along Barnack Drive. They had been in the back yards of homes along Barnack Drive and possibly Bluefield Court. After they were confronted by a homeowner, they ran to their car.

Do you know who owns this car?

Apparently we are now seen as a soft, low-risk target. The police ask us to continue to call and report items such as the above. No matter how insignificant you may think it is, please call the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number (703/691-2131) to report crime. We may have to catch them in the act, get a description and ideally the license plate number of their vehicle.

Call our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator **Jeff Carter** at 703/569-8784 to sign up for a three-hour vehicle patrol. Have a talk with your children. Maybe they know what's going on and who may be involved.

Membership Drive: LAST CALL - This is the last call for you to join or renew your membership in your Civic Association. I can't understand why every one of us does not join. Dues are only \$10 per year and for that you get many returns in savings for services and representation at government meetings. The membership form is on the back page of this *Crier*. Fill it in and either call President **John Cooley** at 703/451-7055 to come pick it up or you may drop it off at his home at 8131 Edmonton Court. Or, you can mail it back to: CAWSV, P.O. Box 2204, Springfield, VA 22152.

LAST CALL: Please join your Civic Association.

Fairfax County's FY 2010 Budget Woes - The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the county school system are facing a collective \$400 million-plus shortfall in the FY2010 budget (July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010). By law, the county has to set a

balanced budget (expenditures no higher than revenue). Officials will have to either sharply reduce their disbursements or raise more revenue (real estate taxes). Our real estate tax levy would have to be raised an additional \$0.20 per hundred to cover all of it. **Pat Herrity**, our District Supervisor, says that he will oppose any increase in our real estate taxes, but he is one of only two fiscal conservatives on the Board of Supervisors.

It may be worth your time to attend one or more of county's 20 community dialogue sessions and voice your opinion. You can see the schedule and location of those meetings at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/publicmeetings.htm. You can also make money-saving suggestions online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/fy10suggestions. Or you can call in your suggestions (703/324-9400).

Get Rewards For Recycling - AAA Trash & Recycling will soon introduce "RecycleBank" to help provide GREEN solutions for our community and our environment. They hope their rewards program will motivate customers to recycle more. Soon, you'll see a flyer from them announcing the program, but the major points of it include:

- * RecycleBank will send a "Welcome Package" to the participating residential homes with an "activation code" for them to set up their individual RecycleBank account. Residents can manage their efforts and redeem their "points" online or by phone for "cash off" coupons.
- * There will be a \$3.50 per month charge that will be tacked onto your AAA bill. Each individual resident will have to call AAA Customer Service 703/818-8222 to enroll, but wait for the flyer.
- * Larger 64-gallon wheeled carts with covers will be provided. The new carts will have a radio-frequency identification (RFID) chip mounted on the body. AAA trucks are to be retrofitted to read the RFID chip and weigh the contents of your cart; this weight turns into "points." There is no need to sort your recyclables. You can place paper, plastic, cans and bottles all in the same container.
- * The RecycleBank service day will be the same as the regular recycling day.
- * There are over a hundred local grocery stores, restaurants and retailers involved in the rewards for this program. Visit www.RecycleBank.com, click on "My Rewards," scroll to the bottom where you would click on "Virginia." 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 Reward Coupons.

Prescription Drugs Savings - Paul Goforth (Vancouver Road) - Even though Costco is a "membership" type store, you do not have to be a member to buy prescriptions at their pharmacy. Just tell them at the door that you wish to use the pharmacy, and they will let you in. Check out their generic drug prices online at www.costco.com. Their online prices are consistent with what you'll pay at each of their stores. Some suggest that Costco will save you a lot in prescription drugs. The full story is located at www.snopes.com/medical/drugs/generic.asp.

Original Owners - I love to accumulate stories from the early days of our Village. I had wondered out loud why the eastern side of Springfield Village Drive, the southern portion of Brisbane Street and Springfield Village Court are very different from the rest of our Village. Well, **Don Ritenour** (Springfield Village Drive) answered some of my questions as follows:

"When we moved here in August 1976, we were advised that the county plan originally called for Springfield Village Drive to be a thru street into Daventry. The residents at that time petitioned the county to have the street end. The county agreed and allowed a cul-de-sac to be installed with pipe stems and additional houses at the end of the street. Work began in 1977. When we moved in, we were the last house on our side of the street and there was a creek just past the end of our property (where there are now houses). The area behind us was wooded at the time. Where the cul-de-sac is now, a lot of dirt was moved to raise the level of the properties behind us; the trees were cut and houses built." Thanks Don!

Mike & Carol Gallagher are also original owners. Mike reported that he and his wife remember seeing the chain gangs cleaning up on Old Keene Mill Road. The guards carried shotguns, just like in "Cool Hand Luke." He also recalls that the intersection of Old Keene Mill Road and Backlick Road did not have a traffic light. It had a sign pointing south to "Five Forks," but no one knew where Five Forks was. (**Editor's note:** In 1969 or

so, I remember seeing Five Forks on the map & commenting to folks that my son was “the handsomest boy this side of Five Forks.”)

Betty Carper (Rolling Road) reported that the Rolling Road median was built by prisoners on a work gang.

Ed & Joan Tarlosky had previously told me that Richmarr (our subdivision builder) allowed original owners a chance to mark trees standing on their lot that they'd like to save. Not knowing exactly where the lot boundaries were, Ed admitted to marking a lot of trees throughout the western side of our Village.

These are the type of stories that make our history more personal and interesting, at least to me. Care to add anything about the early days of our Village?

Bitten by a Dog - Kim Brown (Rolling Road) -

Kim has property that backs up to the Rolling Valley Elementary School playground, along with a dog that attracts the attention of children. They have thrown stuff over the fence trying to entice the dog to play; or have leaned over the fence to pet it. Even though the dog is a safe and nice animal, he's also big and protective of his space.

Unfortunately, one child was either bitten or bumped by the dog while it was trying to get something from the boy's hands. We all need to remind our children that there are private property homes adjacent to the school and they should stay clear of the fence whenever an owner's dog is in the yard. Remind them that all dogs can potentially bite and that they should not approach a dog unless the owner is with the dog and gives permission.

Children's Safety - Since school has begun, we have noticed on several occasions that children – and even some parents – were walking in the street instead of using the sidewalk. Some do not follow the instructions of the school safety patrols and are not as conscious of the potential dangers of a car backing out of driveways as we hope they would be.

Advertise in Your Community Directory - Here's the pricing for the 2009 West Springfield Village Community Directory ads:

* 1/4 page (business card) - \$48.

* 1/2 page - \$88.

* Full page - \$148.

* Covers - \$180.

Encourage your quality contractors to also advertise in our Directory. Contact **Steve Huie** at Printing Ideas (Steve@printingideas.com, 703/591-1708) to reserve a spot in our next Directory.

Operation Care - Many of you have expressed a willingness to become involved with Operation Care's Christmas Gift Program for children of military families who are on the lower side of income scales. Operation Care's stated objective is to provide Christmas gifts to about 106 children from about 80 families who live in northern Virginia. The children range in age from 4 to 12 years. Gifts will have to be either new or in “new condition” or you may elect to contribute money to allow Operation Care to buy at discount in your stead. Mail your money (payable to “Operation Care”) or gift contribution to **Sandra R. Lasley** at 7528 Milway Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306. She will respond with a charitable donation slip for income tax purposes. If you want to contribute a gift and save postage, you can drop it off at my home (**John Cooley**) and I'll deliver it to Sandra.

Who Maintains the Sidewalks and Trails in the County? - Most of our sidewalks were constructed prior to 1981 and are therefore maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation. But how about the new sidewalk and trail beside the widened Rolling Road? Trails (asphalt, stone dust, wood chip, or natural surface) fall under many different jurisdictions – including the state, the county, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, and homeowner associations (not our Civic Association).

To request maintenance of a state-maintained sidewalk, contact the Department of Transportation at 703/383-8368. For further information, please see the information page: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/utilities/walkways.htm),

Village Crier Distributors - Thanks to the team of volunteers who make door-to-door deliveries (**Anne Gray, Julia Hale, Mark Lord, T.J. Moffett, Larry & Mary Mark, Sue Trinka, Walter Lin, Leanna Wilson, Dick Denny, John Strong, Kim Brown, Charles Young, Anne Walker, T.J. Moffet, Kathleen Cheney and Lisa Gibson**).

And special thanks also to **Anne Carter**, who coordinates that team of *Crier* deliverers. Let me or *Crier* editor **Larry Mark** know if you are willing to help or to fill in as a substitute.

West Springfield Village Annual Parade and Halloween Party - Wendi Dorey will again chair this annual fun event. Dress up in your favorite Halloween garb, join us at the Rolling Valley Elementary School parking lot at 11 a.m. on October 25 for a slow parade along Barnack drive to the Village West Swimming Pool parking lot. There Wendi will have games, snacks and treats for you and your children. She will need help controlling traffic along the parade route, running games and contributions of goodies and drinks. Wendi is at 703/738-6015. This is open to all in West Springfield Village.

Haunted House/Fun Fair - Rolling Valley Elementary School will host this annual event on October 25 starting at 4:30 p.m. Community volunteers are needed to help set up, act as a character in the haunted house, sell food, run games or clean up. This is a fun event, even if you work it. Let me (**John Cooley**) know if you would like to volunteer for this one and I'll get your contact information to the correct committee chair.

Village Master Gardener at Your Service - Pat Aunon (Vancouver Road) is a Master Gardener from Green Spring Gardens Park. She did the landscaping at the pool and at Rolling Valley Elementary School (with help from parents, teachers and staff). Pat says that fall is the best time for planting. She has more than 20 years of landscaping experience and has numerous references, both in and out of West Springfield Village. Pat is available to help with your landscaping and gardening. She can be reached at 703/866-2544. Look for gardening tips from Pat in future e-news. Let her know if you have a topic you'd like her to discuss.

Leaf Rakers - Molly and Amy Everett will rake your leaves for \$1.50 per large bag, with a minimum charge of \$15 per hour if both girls are working; \$10 if only one girl is working that job. Ideally, they'll charge by the bag, but the minimum is to protect their time investment when not many leaves have fallen and it takes an hour to fill three

bags. They did good work for people around the neighborhood last year, and they are ready to do more this fall. Reach them at 703/569-3375 or 703/992-5373 or by e-mail at mickeyandmee@verizon.net.

Jobs Wanted - Beth Everett (Birmingham Lane) would like to help with your word processing, editing, desk-top publishing, resume creation or other administrative needs. Beth has 22 years administrative and program support experience. English was her double major at Virginia Tech (3.7 GPA). Prices will be determined based on project requirements. Please call Beth at 703/569-3375.

Local School News . . .

Entertainment Coupon Books - Sixth graders at Rolling Valley Elementary School (RVES) are selling the books for \$25 each. The books contain a treasure of coupons for local restaurants, movie theaters, grocery stores and children's activity locations such as gyms, dance studios, and more. Let your Civic Association President know if you want to purchase one and he'll direct a supervised student your way.

RVES-PTA Yahoo Mail Group - If you have a child at RVES and you are not receiving the RVES Parent Teacher Association e-mail, please let me know and then look for an invitation to join that communications loop.

After School Activities - RVES offers a lot of after-school activities, including art, drama, science, sports and possibly a robotics class coming soon. As space allows, they are open to home-schooled Village children as well as Village children who attend other schools. Registration forms are at the RVES 24/7 Blackboard, but you can also let **John Cooley** know if you are interested and he'll get the registration information to you.

Designate Local Schools on Giant's A+ BonusBucks - With Giant's A+ BonusBucks, points accrue with each of your purchases when you use your Giant Card. It even works with purchases made online with Peapod by Giant. At the end of each month, these points determine your school's cash total, which is automatically credited to its account; school totals are updated each month.

(Please note: Gift cards, pharmacy, alcohol and/or cigarette purchases are excluded from accrued points.)

Go to www.giantfood.com/aplus/ if you have a Giant Card to designate schools to receive benefit from your purchases. The instructions are easy to follow. RVES is #02090; West Springfield Elementary School is #020941; Irving Middle School is not registered yet; and West Springfield High School is #02095. You can also register at the customer service counter in local Giant food stores.

Box Tops for Education - There are other ways to help your schools and respective PTAs without having to open your wallet. One is to 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 are worth 10 cents to the school.

Random Acts of Kindness . . .

Our Vice President, **Bridget Simpkins**, recently broke her ankle. She wanted to recognize and thank her good neighbor **Bill Birden** who splinted her ankle and got her off the lawn and into a vehicle for the ride to the hospital. She also wanted to thank

Christine Birden who took over her babysitting duties while she was in the emergency room.

The **Petrus family** want to offer special thanks to **Chris Bunyea** (Barnack Drive) for helping them recently get into our home after they had locked themselves out.

Bill McCarron would like to thank **Don & Julia Hale** (Wythe Lane) for their help during the past two months while he was recuperating from a serious softball knee injury. "They took me to the doctors office, put my trash cans in the street, and picked up the newspapers each day, etc."

Welcome to Our New Neighbors . . .

Joe & Felicia Callahan just moved into 6902 Barnack. They have one daughter now in her senior year at West Springfield High and a well behaved 8-year-old golden retriever.

Greg & Sheree Drummond and their three

children moved into 8127 Springfield Village Drive.

Robert & Lisa Bearden and their children moved into 6821 Ontario Street.

Sabrina Taylor recently moved into 6825 Ontario Street along with her sons, **Jordin** and **Bron**.

Ahmad & Regina Davis just moved into 8119 Edmonton Court.

Welcome all to our West Springfield Village!



Kriebel Family
703-644-1434
7007 Barnack Drive
Springfield, VA 22152
Serving our neighbors
in West Springfield Village
Residents since 1983

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

**Civic Association of West
Springfield Village
Post Office Box 2204
Springfield, VA 22152**

