

## West Springfield Village News . . .

**From the President - John Cooley** - We can now communicate via e-mail to 60 percent of our homes. That is in itself good news, unless you are one of the 40 percent who do not receive our weekly electronic news messages. E-mail and our website ([www.westspringfieldvillage.org](http://www.westspringfieldvillage.org)) with its BLOG and FORUM are the best way for us to communicate. I suspect you are like me when it comes to receiving telephone calls during family time.

The e-news is a good way for you to announce joyous family events such as anniversaries, birthdays, graduations and anything your family would like to share with the rest of the Village. I hope that many more of you would write articles that you think would interest other Village residents. To be included in the weekly e-news, I need your input by noon each Thursday. We want to include your articles and family announcements – if for no other reason; it means less for me to write. Digital pictures are also welcome and, in fact, encouraged!

If you are not receiving these weekly reports, I probably do not have your current e-mail address. In some cases, your Internet Service Provider blocks our e-news, but we usually can work around that.

Slow down! The speed limit in the Village is 25 MPH except on Rolling Road where it is 30 MPH. That slower speed is actually too fast on the curve along Barnack Drive where the construction equipment and trucks are parked. It is too fast when approaching intersections during the times that our children are walking to or from their school or bus stop. It is too fast whenever our children are playing in front yards. Slow down!

We have some younger drivers who really need parental intervention on the topic of safe driving. You can and should submit an anonymous report

about a reckless driver at [https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traf\\_sfty\\_report.htm](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traf_sfty_report.htm).

Please take your Christmas holiday lights down! Other cultures in other countries may consider them beautiful for year-round display, but not the majority in America. If you do intend to leave them up, please make sure they are neat and representative of our Village (the Village we want, not necessarily the one have now). If you need help taking them down, ask your neighbor and then let me know.

### Upcoming Activities:

**May 24 - General Membership Meeting,  
7:30-9:00 p.m., Rolling Valley  
Elementary School**

**June 2 - Community Yard Sales (June 9  
rain date)**

**June 16 - 8:00-1:30 a.m., Community  
Cleanup**

**July 4 - 1:00 p.m. - Parade and Barbeque  
Pool Party**

Not a week goes by without a question about possible violations of county ordinances. Can my neighbor use his home for car repair and detailing (other than his/her own)? NO! Can my neighbor set up an apartment in their Village home for renting to another family? NO! Can they put TV dish antennae in their front yard? Not if they are concerned for our property values and appearances. Can they park a large commercial vehicle or trailer curbside on Village streets? NO, unless they own and operate the vehicle. Long-term parking of oversized vehicles? NO! Can they leave their dogs out at night even though the dogs bark incessantly? NO! Can they park a car without a current license plate curbside? NO! Can they park such a car on their front yard grass? No, at least not for too long.

From this type of messages, it appears as though some of us have lost our respect for our neighbors. That can't be a good thing. One neighbor called to ask if he could fence his back yard and, if so, what steps should he take. My response was: Step 1 – talk to your neighbors to make sure they are o.k. with the plans. None of us can treat our home as an island. We have to be concerned with the impact of our actions on our neighbor's property values and their quality of life.

**May General Membership Meeting** - Please plan on attending our spring meeting, now scheduled for May 24 at Rolling Valley Elementary school. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., ends promptly at 9. We're looking forward to seeing you there!

**4th of July Parade, Pool Party and Backyard Barbeque** - Join us for some great family fun! The parade will start at/about 1:00 p.m. from the intersection of Harland Drive and Barnack Drive. Admittance to the pool for this event is free to non-pool-member Village residents. You will be able to feed a family of four some delicious grilled foods (hamburgers, hotdogs) plus chips, baked beans and maybe even some potato salad for less than \$20. Your Civic Association co-sponsors this event with the Village Pool's Board of Directors. **Amy Klimek** is our Coordinator for this event, but she may need help now that she has two small children and another girl on the way. Amy can be reached by phone at 703/569-6328 (just don't call during nap time..)

**Jeff Carter** reported that if you would like information on how to address issues such as junk cars, barking dogs, housing, property maintenance and the like, you can find it at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/concerns.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/faqs/concerns.htm). There, you can view the various county departments and points of contact for specific issues, or download a copy of Fairfax County's Neighborhood Concerns brochure, which is available in multiple languages in pdf format.

We have some homes that house too many unrelated people. Should you feel guilty about reporting them to County? NO! We are a richly diverse Village in terms of ethnicity and culture, but all of us must abide by the standards set forth in County Ordinance, Codes and simple decency. If you feel comfortable doing so, I always maintain that it is best to first talk to the offender, but if not, notify the local police or Fairfax County to invite them to sort out these type problems.

**Treasurer's Report - Kristy Walker** - We continue to be financially healthy. Our current bank balance is \$7097.11. We have made our

initial payment to Image Works for maintaining the Rolling Road median, have contributed to the West Springfield Elementary School fund raiser and have purchased a barbeque grill (on sale) for the Village West Swimming Pool.

**Membership - Chair Julia Hale** - We continue to get additional members, some new and some who simply missed the deadline for submitting their membership application. New residents who moved into our Village after Nov. 1, 2006, are granted full (and free!) voting rights for the remainder of this membership year by simply completing the application form. We have directories for those new members. Call me at 703/569-3896 and I or one of the Association officers will stop by to deliver it and obtain your membership information.

**Directory - Editor Jane Ray** - All members should by now have their copy of this year's directory (blue cover). If not, let me know and I'll get one delivered to you. Please take a look at the directory and let me know (703/451-7772) how we can make it a better reference tool for home use.

**Village Crier - Editor Larry Mark** - Thanks to **Mary Jo Mazzonna** for coordinating the door-to-door delivery of the January *Crier*. Also, we thank all those good folks who helped deliver the *Crier*; they not only got a little exercise, they also got a chance to meet some of their neighbors!

**Website - Webmaster Steve Stark** - We have added a "Blog" to the Village Website. The Blog contains the latest e-news archive copies of past e-news. Go to [www.westspringfieldvillage.org](http://www.westspringfieldvillage.org) and then click on the "E-News Update" tab to access the Blog. Our website can do much more for us if more would use it. Check it out!

We got a hit from Michigan from a couple who wanted to buy a home in our Village after visiting our website. Real estate agents are advertising our Civic Association, neighborhood watch and our website when they list Village homes. It is our most underutilized communications resource. Let's make it work for us! Let me ([webmaster@westspringfieldvillage.org](mailto:webmaster@westspringfieldvillage.org)) know if you have ideas or constructive criticism.

**Neighborhood Watch - Coordinator Jeff Carter** - With volunteers few and far between, it is time to seriously consider whether or not to put the watch program on a hiatus. Multiple approaches have been taken over the years, from actively assigning patrol dates to soliciting via phone to the current voluntary sign-up calendar.

Each has had some measure of success, though the latter was the only one that didn't require a little arm twisting.

If the program is to continue, we need to hear from you. To volunteer:

\* Select any Friday or Saturday night (all dates are open)

\* E-mail [Watch@westspringfieldvillage.org](mailto:Watch@westspringfieldvillage.org) with the date you'd like; or

\* Call **Jeff Carter** at 703/569-8784 with this information.

Whatever you do, you'll get a follow-up call and/or e-mail confirmation.

Thanks to **Bob Brien** and **Jeff Carter** for patrolling on Sat., Jan. 6. Thanks also to **Chuck Gibson** and his son **Scott** for patrolling on Sat., Jan. 13. Scott will get credit for performing community service. A gracious thank you to the **Gibsons** (Springfield Village Drive) for patrolling on Sat., Mar. 17, and to the **Baccaris** (Ontario Street) for patrolling on Fri., Mar. 23.

**Community Yard Sale** - The annual yard sale is scheduled for June 2 with a rain date of June 9. Each participant is invited to send a list of general category items to be sold. We will compile the list by street address and categories and attach to a map of the Village. These are to be distributed to each participant to offer to their customers to help guide them to the next yard sale address. We run an ad in the *Washington Post* and another in the *Springfield Times* newspapers and put out yard sale signs along Rolling Road and directional signs to each participant's street. Participants will make their own sign to guide folks from the last turn to their home. We need a Yard Sale Coordinator to work with the President to make this happen this year. If interested, please contact **John Cooley** at [john.t.cooley@verizon.net](mailto:john.t.cooley@verizon.net) or by phone at 703/451-7055.

**Community Cleanup** - June 16 from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m. This event alone will more than return the cost of your membership. We will collect all hard-to-get-rid-of items such as old appliances, vehicle tires, and furniture in the parking lot of Rolling Valley Elementary School. If it will burn or can be melted, we can collect it during the community cleanup! As of now, we can not collect rocks, bricks, tile and similar items. We are working with Fairfax County to add a truck for these type items, but have no definitive answer as of this publication. Common household trash, leaves and other items that our trash and recycling services will pick up curbside also are not allowed.

### **Pohick Stream Clean Up - Pat Patton**

**(Springfield Village Drive)** - Twice annually, Village volunteers pick up trash along the Pohick Stream. A lot of that trash comes from our own residents. The Pohick and its watershed are part of a Resource Protection Area, which makes illegal dumping there more than just a misdemeanor. On Tues., April 3, between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m., a man riding a green lawn tractor pulling a small wagon was observed illegally dumping a heavy concrete, donut-shaped object near the pool parking lot. He rolled it down the concrete drain, but it ended up on the side of the drain in leaves. There it remains. It will take several volunteers to carry it back up the hill during the next Pohick Stream Cleanup. Preferably, the gentleman who dumped it would instead see the need to go and get it for proper disposal.

**Random Acts of Kindness** - Since our last *Village Crier*, the following were identified for their unselfish acts of kindness in helping other Village neighbors:

**Andrea Rubio** borrowed a snow blower and set out to clear her neighbors' driveways and sidewalks. **Mickie Sullivan** joined **George Gornak** and shoveled the remaining snow from the public walks.

**Dick & Sue Dexter** have for several years shoveled snow off their neighbors' sidewalks, driveways and steps plus they often deliver the morning paper to their neighbors' front doors. **Mark & Melisa Anderson** also shovel the ice and snow regularly from their neighbors' properties. **Jake Moffatt** was mentioned for shoveling neighbors' sidewalks and driveways.

**Scott Creque** was recognized by many for using his snow blower to clear the sidewalks all the way around Bluefield Court.

**Robert Luttrell** spent almost an entire day digging out everyone on Loudoun Lane and lots of folks on Barnack Drive. Then he noticed that the snowplow did not clear Loudoun so he got out his snowblower and proceeded to clean the entire street.

**Roy Billet** surprised his neighbors by clearing their sidewalks of the heavy three inches of wintry mix. **Mr. Brown** at 7008 Vancouver wanted to thank whoever cleaned his walk during the recent snows. He is very grateful.

**Sue Young** was also honored for helping a neighbor family who were sick with the flu bug. Sue was a great support, and actually drove to the drug store to get cough/cold medicines for the **Everett** family.

**Pete & Becky Hatcher** helped take down playground equipment in a neighbor's back yard. **Rich Allen** helped a number of neighbors who

needed their cars freed from the slippery snow and ice on the slope of Springfield Village Drive.

**Katrina Cooley, Dani Walker and Miran Henry** volunteered to help bag clippings from a bush that blocked sidewalk access near Rolling Valley Elementary School. These young ladies rarely miss a chance to help a neighbor or our Village causes.

**Jim Mazzonna, Bob Lomax, Jack Chiang, Jason Henry and Bernie Koehle** shoveled most of Edmonton Court and some on Ontario Street. Jim and Bob then ventured onto Springfield Village Drive and shoveled even more.

**Ahn Ngo** was found shoveling snow at another neighbor home along Ontario Street.

**Jeff Carter** was spotted well past the boundaries of his property with his snow blower and, in fact, was on the other side of the street.

**Kathy D'Amato** and her children shoveled a neighbor's sidewalk and driveway during last winter's snow events.

**Clyde & Cathy Hilliard** were acknowledged for often bringing in their neighbors' garbage and recycle containers. They also helped shovel the sleet, ice and snow off sidewalks and up to neighbors' doors.

Vice President **Bridget Simpkins** and her daughter **Haley** were mentioned for taking care of a lost dog until it could be reunited with its owners.

**Nancy & Dennis Gehley** thanked the **Hatchers**, the **Daugherty** children and **Robert Luttrell** for clearing their sidewalks and driveway while they were out of town. Nancy had just come home from her fourth surgery for cancer only to find **Pete Hatcher** clearing away the driveway from this last snowfall.

Many thanks to all of these listed above for their random acts of kindness and also the many more of you who perform such unselfish acts of kindness.

**Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC)** - Fort Belvoir is expected to make room for 22,000 more personnel by September 2011. They are part of part of the BRAC legislation. The Installation Commander is examining alternatives to accomplish this mission, which includes development of the Engineer Proving Grounds just south of us. Their preferred alternative would include placing the National GeoSpatial Agency and Washington Headquarters Services on the eastern portion of EPG. Army lease units, agencies and activities would be on South Post at sites on Gunston Road and Belvoir Road. The new Army Community Hospital would be on the South Post Golf Course. Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems and Missile Defense Agency Headquarters Command Center would be on South Post at sites on Gunston Road and Belvoir Road. The U.S. Army Museum (not part of BRAC) will be

placed on the southern portion of the golf course on north fort.

Fort Belvoir released a draft EIS to allow public comment concerning their plans. Under each possible BRAC alternative, the EPG will either be developed or it will be retained for future development initiatives at Fort Belvoir. The 807-acre EPG was acquired by the Army in the early 1940's to support the Research, Development, and Engineering Center. EPG was used during and after WWII for testing of a wide range of engineering equipment and supplies.

Commercial and residential development in the area caused a reduction of testing activities in the early 70's. Most of EPG is currently inactive. A 170-acre tract of land along the western and southern boundaries is reserved as the right-of-way for completion of the Fairfax County Parkway.

What will BRAC mean to us? (1) More traffic, of course! And, (2) it should help the market values of our homes if you are looking to sell in that period; otherwise it should mean more real estate taxes for all of the rest of us.

Widening Rolling Road through our Village is not mentioned as a critical, BRAC-transportation mitigation. And, perhaps rightfully so within the scope of BRAC. The ramp off Rolling Road onto the westbound Parkway was mentioned, but no commitment made to improve it within the list of transportation initiatives for BRAC. Should the U.S. Army be required to widen Rolling Road as part of BRAC? In my opinion, no! This is the responsibility of the folks who we elected to represent us. VDOT responds to our County's Board of Supervisors and their Comprehensive Plan that now has Rolling Road work slated for bid in 2013. It is also within their responsibility to ensure that ramp is improved to accommodate the traffic from the connected parkways.

We have little time left to make the Army, Fairfax County and VDOT – and even Capital Hill – understand the need to widen Rolling Road before the parkways are connected. We all need to let our Supervisor **Elaine McConnell** know that we expect that she and her staff will link these two transportation requirements to the BRAC effort.

Rolling Road needs to be widened before the EPG is occupied if we can retain a reasonable expectation of leaving our Village during rush hours.

**Rolling Road (RR) Update** - Looks like we're about to have another meeting with VDOT about

the RR project. We have worked this issue for several years, but some of you for a few decades now. At first, most of us argued against the plan to widen Rolling Road (RR) to four lanes of 45 MPH traffic with left turn lanes and a raised 6- to 8-foot median plus 8-foot parking lanes on both sides where there are homes. Look at Beulah Road just north of Telegraph Road if you want to see what we'll have after the project. But when you do look at Beulah, do so knowing that our RR will be an additional 6 feet across from curb to curb. Given the plans to connect the parkways and to occupy the Engineer Proving Grounds, I now see the need to widen the road and to do so before either is completed.

But throughout this lengthy period of "on again, off again," we have not changed our position about the need for a traffic light along RR to help break up the seemingly constant flow of traffic. Thanks to **Deb Staron** for her efforts to help win the argument for a traffic light at the school intersection of Rolling Road and Barnack Drive. Now if we can just get it funded, we may actually see it installed. **Jan Vaughan** (VDOT/NOVA) is responsible for secondary roads (including RR) and has been helpful in moving that portion of the project ahead even though RR is not scheduled for bid until 2013.

The following are excerpts from recent communications from Ms. Vaughan:

"The Rolling Road widening is fully funded in the Secondary Six Year plan and is moving ahead with design. We hope to come back to you all with a Citizen Involvement Meeting early this spring.

"The consultant designing the bigger widening project is preparing the plan for the signal at Barnack, but the funding for the signal does not become available until next fiscal year (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008), so the earliest that the signal could possibly go in is July. We are getting a head start by designing it using the Rolling Road project funds, but we cannot construct it using those funds.

"I have been researching the history of the parking lanes on Rolling Road in preparation of polling the residents, as you suggested. When the project originally went to Public Hearing in 1991, two design options were presented; one with parking lanes and one without. The citizens selected the one with parking lanes, and that design was ultimately approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. A Citizen Information Meeting was held in late 2001 and VDOT suggested that there might be an elimination of the parking lanes to reduce right of way impacts. The engineering decision made following the meeting

was to leave the parking lanes as shown, but to work with individual property owners who might want another solution.

"Given the setbacks that the Rolling Road schedule has suffered, and the urgent need to widen this road as soon as possible, I hesitate to re-open this issue. The project manager agrees that re-designing the plans, which are currently well along, would set back the design process considerably. With costs rising every year that we delay, we could find ourselves in the position of not having enough funding to move forward.

"Based on the fact that citizens have expressed support for on-street parking both times that the project was presented, I don't believe we would have a different result this time. We are still committed to working with individual property owners wherever possible to reduce impacts, and we certainly can look at wider driveways for those who may need them.

"We will be presenting the plans again as soon as possible, and that can be the time to get the best feedback. You are right that eliminating the parking lanes could reduce costs, if all else were equal, but if the re-design causes a delay, then the savings would be reduced. Actually, I can't think of another roadway where we have four lanes divided with on-street parking, so this must have been very important to residents when originally conceived.

"We do know that many people will be unhappy with the widening. However, Rolling Road is a high priority of un-constructed projects in Fairfax County's Secondary Six-Year plan, so we will need to try and accommodate what we can to make this easier for the residents along the corridor."

### **Can Emergency Responders Find Your Home?**

- Some Village house numbers are not easily seen from the street and many are not painted on the curb or mailbox. Without these markings, it is more difficult than it should be to find a particular address, especially at night. Take a look at your own home from the street and see if the ambulance driver or police officer can easily spot your home by house number.

**Is Your Front Door Lock Secure? Probably NOT!** - Seems like the criminal element has found a way to defeat door locks with very little noise. They have found that a "bump key" will allow them to defeat most reasonably priced door locks now on the market. Click on the following link to view the Peifer Safe and Lock Security Alert Memo: [www.peiferlock.com/alert-bum-keys.htm](http://www.peiferlock.com/alert-bum-keys.htm).

Many in the crime prevention field have suggested that unauthorized entry into a locked home is usually accomplished with force (kicking in a door, breaking a window, etc.) rather than picking the lock or using a bump key.

**New Credit Card Crimes** - Thieves discover new tricks more quickly than we can protect ourselves. One of their new tactics is to simply replace your card with a similar looking card, but one that has expired. This may happen at the gym or at the restaurant or any other place where you surrender your card for payment. How many of us check to make sure we actually get our own credit back from your waiter or waitress? If your card is replaced, it may end up being used by others for lots of no-alarm type purchases until you realize your card has been switched. Previously we reported that some bold criminals have found that they can photograph your card and use the numbers along with your name as it appears on the card to make online purchases. Beware!

**Stay Informed on Crime** - For the latest crime news in our area, please go to the link to the FCPD crime information page, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime\\_w.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime_w.htm). This page includes daily press releases, weekly reports and statistics on crime in our area, West Springfield District Station (District 7), and across the county.

To file a non-emergency electronic police report, see the instructions on the following link: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs/). This online report is for insurance and police information purposes only. The crime will not be investigated. Information obtained by this report assists in preventing future crimes by providing statistics on trends, locations and times of violations. It may also assist in the identification and return of stolen property recovered as the result of other investigations. See last week's e-news for more details on the Crime Reporting System (CRS) described above.

To contact the police by phone to report a non-emergency, call 703/691-2131. It might not be a bad idea to add this number to your cell phone directory.

For a monthly newsletter on crime in the West Springfield area delivered to your e-mail box, please follow the instructions on the following link: [www.FairfaxCounty.gov/police/newsletter](http://www.FairfaxCounty.gov/police/newsletter). This will subscribe you to the West Springfield Shield. Current subscribers of the Shield must re-subscribe using this link as well for future editions, as the current distribution process has changed. After simply selecting the "start" subscription option and

entering your e-mail address you will be prompted to answer one question and you are done.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail that you need to reply "OK" to. After these simple steps are done, you will you will receive e-mail notifications of newly released newsletters or you can visit the above Web page anytime to view past editions.

**Real Estate Tax Notice** - Assessed values of residential homes in our area should be down for the first time in several years. My home value actually dropped 1.42 percent, which will mean that we'll pay \$69.95 less tax than last year. We will, that is, if the tax levy remains at \$0.89 per hundred of assessed value. Our County Supervisors can decide to raise it, but only if they want to commit political suicide. The proposed FY08 budget for Fairfax County is \$3.3 billion. The county's fiscal year runs from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

The formal adoption of the budget is scheduled for Mon., April 30, at 10 a..m. during the regularly scheduled board meeting.

**AAA Trash Agreement Extended to July 2007** - Expect an increase in the next fixed-price agreement. Key reason to wait until July is to have one increase instead of several and to return to a fixed price throughout the agreement year. Our current agreement is not fixed price and that's why we had increases.

**Group Rates at Potomac National Games** - The Potomac Nationals Minor League Baseball Team has offered our Village group rates for tickets. Benefits of a group include discounted ticket prices (\$1 off reserved and bleacher seating), scoreboard recognition, participating in on-field contests and possibly performing the national anthem. The only requirement is for us to pick a date and purchase tickets in advance. Anyone interested? We'll also need a Village Project Officer for this – anyone?

They also offer a "Field of Dreams Program" to any and all teams, subject to available dates. The cost is \$100 per team and that includes admission for twenty players/coaches ( family members may purchase a ticket at the group rate), Field of Dreams T-shirts for the players, team photo on the field, scoreboard recognition during the game, public address welcome and taking the field with the players. You can reserve a date for this program by e-mailing the Nats Director of Community Relations **Jen Roccanti** at [jroccanti@potomacnationals.com](mailto:jroccanti@potomacnationals.com).

The Potomac Nationals website is

[www.potomacnationals.com](http://www.potomacnationals.com) if you would like to learn more about them.

**Family Watchdog - Dale Marhanka** - Here is a link I thought the village residents would find useful: [www.familywatchdog.us/](http://www.familywatchdog.us/). It lists all the sexual predators in the United States. It has addresses, photos, and descriptions. You type in an address and it shows the neighborhood with little squares you can click on to see the offender.

**Cell Phone Tower** - The lower bank of T-Mobile antennae are now on the tower at/about 104 feet up the tower. Cingular should soon complete the upper portion of the monopole and add their own bank of antennae. The T-Mobile representative says they can be operational next week, but expect they'll wait until Cingular is also in place. During the tower construction, there is a greater chance that the security fence or gate may be left down or open. There is enough water in the pool and enough holes and equipment to represent a threat to our younger children and pets. Caution!

**Crier Ads** - We did not have enough to justify running *Crier* ads this edition, but will try again in our next *Crier* due out in July. We can include 8 OR 16 ads for Village residents who are also members of our Civic Association at \$8 per ad per edition. Children may also advertise, but pay the same \$8. Ads should be 4 inches wide by 5 inches high. You are invited to advertise your business, whether it is village-based or otherwise. The \$8 covers the cost of photocopying the extra sheet dedicated to ads. Send your ads to me ([john.t.cooley@verizon.net](mailto:john.t.cooley@verizon.net)) no later than June 29. I can help with graphics if needed, but only at the amateur level. If we get fewer than eight ads, we will not run them and refund any money collected. We can include a second page of ads, but will need eight more to fill that page and to offset the additional costs of that page.

**FREE Directory Assistance** - Phone companies are charging us \$1.40 or more for 411 information calls, but there is a free service available for our use. Simply dial 1-800-FREE-411 or 1-800-373-3411. Users can navigate an automated voice recognition system that asks for a location (city and state), type of listing (business, government or residential), and name. Once the service has located an entry for the requested number, it reads the information aloud and offers the caller the option of connecting to the number by pressing a single number on his telephone keypad. It works on home phones and cell phones. You may have to or want to listen to a competitive business ad (about 10 seconds worth), but that is what makes it "free." Businesses pay an

advertising fee to have their ad played when you search for a listing in the same general category. For example, you may ask for a Home Depot listing, but may also hear an ad for Lowes while waiting for the number you want. That could actually be helpful.

**Village West Pool Information Night** - The pool's Board of Directors will be holding a "pool information night" at Rolling Valley Elementary School on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. People interested in membership, swim team, guest passes, swim lessons and general information should plan to come by for a visit. New and current members are welcome to come to pay their membership fees for and register for swim team. We will be conducting on-site swim team registration and pool membership registration, as well as provide people the opportunity to learn about Village West Swimming Pool.

**Burke and West Springfield Neighborhood College, Spring 2007** - Fairfax County will host a FREE Burke & West Springfield Neighborhood College at Pohick Regional Library, Thursday evenings from April 26 to May 31, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Residents will learn how to work with their neighbors, community organizations and local governments to strengthen their neighborhood and promote a strong sense of community. It will also include information concerning county community based services, demographics of our community and the budget process.

The deadline for registration is April 19. You can e-mail contact information to **Paulette Whiteside** at: [paulette.whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:paulette.whiteside@fairfaxcounty.gov). If you have any questions, contact Paulette at 703/324-5285 for more information.

**Help Needed to Support Police Week** - The CAC will again provide lunch at the West Springfield station in honor of Police Week. We will put out deli meats, cheeses and fixins for sandwiches (plus sodas, sides and dessert) for both shifts on May 15 and 16. Both monetary and food donations are welcome. If you didn't have a chance to sign the sheet at the CAC meeting Tuesday and want to help, please reply to this message. We look forward to your participation and help!

**Leash Law - Laura Bentley, Barnack Drive** - Residents should be aware that we do have leash laws in Fairfax County. A couple of days ago we were walking our dog, and a young pup came running out in the street to see us and play. There were no people around. We were concerned that someone would come flying up the road and not

see the dog. And I hear from my neighbors that a stray dog got into their backyard and attacked one of their dogs, then jumped the fence into a neighbor's yard. They walked the dog back home. I know sometimes dogs get out (ours wandered up the street while we had her out in the front yard and we got distracted) so we don't usually report them, but if someone has a "dangerous" dog, they need to be extra vigilant.

**Board of Directors 2005-2006**

John Cooley, President	451-7055
Shawn Klimek, Past President	569-6328
Bridget Simpkins, Vice President	569-6814
Kristy Walker, Treasurer	569-5985
Ed Wyse, Secretary	569-3372

**Telemarketing Calls to Cell Phones - Webmaster Steve Stark** - Some of you may have also started to receive such calls on your cell phone. When I called T-Mobile, the Customer Service Representative told me that cell numbers have been opened up to telemarketers. (The only independent confirmation of this I have is the recorded message Steve received saying that his mortgage was approved!) You can opt out by going to [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov) and listing your cell phone number on the "Do Not Call" list.

**Radon - Ken Burkman** - When we bought our house last fall, we had it tested and found radon levels about three times higher than the EPA recommended limit. Recently, I was talking with some neighbors and they didn't know what the radon-abating system that we had installed in our home was. Radon occurs naturally in the soil, so it's unlikely that our home has it and others do not.

It is the second leading cause of lung cancer, but is invisible and odorless. More information about radon is available at [www.epa.gov/radon/](http://www.epa.gov/radon/).

**Announcements:**

**CPR Class Available to Village Residents - Mickie Sullivan** (8107 Springfield Village Drive) is an instructor for Red Cross and a PE/health teacher in a high school in Prince William County. She would be willing to hold a class for adult, child and infant CPR for our Village if anyone would be interested. This class could be open for all ages. There would be a small charge of \$5 per person for their certification card through Red Cross. Normally this class would be at least a \$50 fee.

**Aidan Calder Simonin** was born Feb. 28, 2007, at 9:23 p.m. weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 21 inches long. He is the grandson of a very proud **Inez T. Simonin** who lives at 6817 Rolling Road.

**Viktoria & Jason Greanya** (Edmonton Court) celebrated the birth of their baby girl **Keridwen (Keri) Octavia Greanya** on Dec. 30, 2006, at 7:01 p.m. She was 18 inches long and 7 pounds, 6 ounces at birth. Welcome to the Village Keridwen!

**Civic Association of  
West Springfield Village  
Post Office Box 2204  
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