

the  
**Spring Bank News**

The Spring Bank Community Newsletter



**Opportunity to Discuss Vision and Issues Before Local Elections**

*By Martin Tillet*

The upcoming general election in Fairfax County is Tuesday, November 3. Unfortunately many people choose not to vote when the election does not include the President of the United States or seats for the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate.

Data from past elections shows that there are generally low turnouts for non presidential elections. This really makes little sense in that the people running for the local offices will be decision makers on issues that will have more direct impact on our lives concerning local schools, taxes, development, community needs and the county budget.

The upcoming campaign season for the local offices is our opportunity to hear the vision and issues our local candidates feel are important.

Both the candidates running for the Mount Vernon District School Board position and the Mount Vernon Magisterial District Board of Supervisors position have been invited to come to the Spring Bank Community Association Meeting. The next one is October 20 at 7:30 P.M. in the main floor meeting hall of the Groveton Baptist Church at the top of Dawn Drive.

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**Neighborhood Fun!**

We are doing more and more to bring our neighbors together to get to know one another and have fun. In addition to our community meetings, we also host social events. We've put together a social calendar (see below) but we want more of us involved! Please make a suggestion for other neighborhood community events—and feel to take it a step further to organize and host your ideas!

To give your imagination a boost, here are some thoughts to consider:

Halloween is on Saturday this year! Let's do it up right! Volunteer to host activities, fun stations at your home, create a craft station, set up carnival games, host a dance party, spooky movies, ghoulish cocktails, pumpkin carving contest. To volunteer or host an event, contact Lisa Delmonico for more information. [Lisa.delmonico@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisa.delmonico@yahoo.com)



**Save the Date!**

**October 31**

Halloween volunteers needed to host fun, spooky something.

**November 7**

Fall Harvest Potluck Phillips (musicians needed)

**December 5**

First Saturday Ugly Sweater Party  
 Chris & Christine's House, Dawn

**Volunteers**

**Needed First Fridays**

2-hour happy hour meet & greet social hosted by a neighbor at your own house

Contact Lisa Delmonico at [lisa.delmonico@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa.delmonico@yahoo.com)

## Honey Apple Crisp

### Ingredients:

- 4 ½ cups peeled, cored and sliced apples
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons water
- ½ cup honey
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¾ brown sugar
- ¾ cup all-purpose flour
- ¾ cups rolled oats
- 4 tablespoons butter



### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees; lightly grease medium casserole dish
- Spread apple slices evenly in dish. In small bowl, mix the lemon juice and water; pour over apples. Drizzle apples with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon.
- In bowl, mix brown sugar, flour, oats, and butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over the apples.
- Bake 25 minutes in preheated oven. Bake until apples are tender and topping is lightly brown.

AWARD WINNING!

# Spring Bank Raw Honey

\$12 a jar or 2 jars for \$20



Email [jdelmon@gmail.com](mailto:jdelmon@gmail.com) if interested.

Brought to you by the

Delmonico Greenfeld Family Bees!

## Correction to Civil War in Spring Bank

In the last newsletter, I incorrectly stated, "During the time of the Civil War, Charles Henry Quander, a slave at the Hayfield Plantation, found a way to make money by bringing fresh food and produce grown by him and his family to sell to the Union Soldiers living in the surrounding forts and camps. Through his enterprise, he saved enough money to purchase 80 acres of land that was once part of the Spring Bank Manor."

I was contacted by Ms. Gloria Tancil Holmes, a neighborhood resident and Quander descendant who notified me that Charles Henry Quander did not **sell** food to the Union soldiers at camp Vermont. Charles Henry Quander, a slave at the Hayfield Plantation, did provide food to a unit of Union soldiers from Pennsylvania assigned to Camp Vermont. According to the oral history, Henry asked the soldiers to teach him to read and write in exchange for the food. Henry may have given the soldiers food from a kitchen garden next to his cabin or with food from his owner's fields at risk to himself.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was signed in 1863, Dennis Weston Johnston, Henry Quander's owner, did not free his slaves. He continued to hold his slaves thinking they were unaware that they were free since they could not read. Having learned to read in exchange for the food given to the soldiers, Henry later approached his owner and declared, "I know freedom has come." Johnston acknowledged, "Yes Henry, freedom has come, take your freedom and tell the others they may also take their freedom."

Henry Quander was freed; however, he continued to work for Johnston for wages. He saved his money and began purchasing property from the widow, Elizabeth Downy, owner of SpringBank Manor. He purchased land in parcels, until he acquired 88 acres that were once part of Spring Bank Manor. On that land he developed a milk dairy and produce farm selling milk in the Mount Vernon District and the city of Alexandria as well as produce in the old Alexandria City Market.

—Martin Tillett

## You're Invited to Join SBCA!

The Spring Bank Community Association is pleased to invite you to become a member of our neighborhood association.

Please complete the form below and return it to SBCA Treasurer Jim Ernst, 6616 Oak Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306

Last Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*House Number and Street*

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (C) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Annual Dues

\$15.00 per household.

Dues have not been collected for several years, aside from new member fees. Payment in the form of cash, personal check or money order is accepted. Please make check or money order payments to SPRING BANK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION.

### Spring Bank Committee Interests

Please print your name next to the committee on which you would like to serve or learn more. Please note, these committees are specific to the affairs of SBCA and focus on neighborhood-related issues and activities to benefit members and the community.

Communications and Publications Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Neighborhood Watch & Safety Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership, Help a Neighbor Network, Welcome Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Community Spirit/Social Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Community Development Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

## Get Involved. Have a Voice. Volunteer!

Spring Bank has several volunteer opportunities for you to get involved. Consider joining one of these committees:

### Mt Vernon Council of Civic Associations Committees

*Representatives are needed on the following committees for MVCCA. These committees meet monthly to discuss issues and concerns facing the Mt. Vernon Magisterial District and Fairfax County. This is a huge opportunity to affect what happens in and around Spring Bank. Contact Josh Delmonico if you are interested in serving on a committee.*

**Budget and Finance Committee** (Primary) Open (Alt) Open

**Consumer Affairs Committee** (Primary Rep) Open (Alt) Open

**Education Committee** (Primary Rep) Open (Alt) Open

**Environmental Affairs and Recreation Committee** (Primary Rep) Kevin Knapmiller (Alt) Martin Tillett

**Health and Welfare Committee** (Primary Rep) Open (Alt) Open

**Planning and Zoning Committee** (Primary Rep) Bill Brinley (Alt) Kevin Knapmiller

**Public Safety Committee** (Primary Rep) Open (Alt) Open

**Transportation Committee** (Primary Rep) Open (Alt) Kevin Knapmiller

## Spring Bank Leadership

**SBCA President** jdelmon@gmail.com  
Joshua Delmonico 703-861-9545

**SBCA Vice President** wbrinley@verizon.net  
Bill Brinley

**SBCA Treasurer** joshneveln@yahoo.com  
Josh Neveln

**SBCA Secretary** bette.ernst@gmail.com  
Jim Ernst

## Local Elections *(Continued from Page 1)*

Time will be scheduled to give the candidates an opportunity to introduce themselves and to articulate their vision and views with regard to what is important and what they propose to do if they are elected. Candidates present will take questions from audience members.

There are numerous candidates running for at large seats that will appear on the ballot on November 3. They are for additional seats on the Fairfax County School Board and the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District Board Directors. There are also at large candidates running for the Constitutional Offices of Sheriff and Clerk of the Court for Fairfax County and there are candidates running for the chairmanship position of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Listed below are links to both political parties with a listing of their candidates for the various elections. There is information on these candidates that helps voters to know who they are and to get a sense of their vision and priorities. Mount Vernon District Supervisor candidates Dan Storck and Jane Gandee will debate the issues Wednesday Sept. 16 at Sherwood Regional Library. The debate is scheduled for 7 pm and is sponsored by the League of Women Voters. The library is located at 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.

The Spring Bank Community is within the boundaries of the 30th Senate District and 44th Legislative District of the Virginia State Assembly. Spring Bank is located in the Mount Vernon Magisterial District and the Belle Haven voting precinct where registered voters can cast their ballot at the West Potomac High School polling station. Hours for voting are usually 6 am – 7 pm. If you are out of town or unable to go to the polls on November 3, early voting will be held at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center at 2511 Parkers Lane, between the Fire Station and Mount Vernon Hospital. Please call 703-780-7518 if you have questions about early voting.

The two local newspapers The Mount Vernon Voice and the Mount Vernon Gazette are additional sources of information on local candidates and rules on voting. They can be read or picked up for free as supplies last at both the Martha Washington and Sherwood Hall Libraries and the Mount Vernon Government Center. The Mount Vernon Gazette is also available online at <http://www.mountvernongazette.com/>

Web link to Republican Party candidates for public office in Fairfax County and the Mount Vernon District - <http://fairfaxgop.org/2015-elections/>

Web link to Democratic Party candidates for public office in Fairfax County and the Mount Vernon District - <http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/2015/04/25/2015-elections/>

The Fairfax County Taxpayer Alliance is a non partisan citizen group that keeps up with local issues and publishes many viewpoints expressed by citizens regarding local and State governance. <http://www.fcta.org/>

Another good source of information about candidates in Virginia is the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) This site provides a non-partisan window into Virginia politics with pull down links to help voters learn about the various candidates in their local elections. At this site voters can follow the money that is backing your local candidates for public office. Visit <http://www.vpap.org/> for more information.

**Save The Date**

The next meeting of the  
Spring Bank Community Association

**October 20, 7:30 PM**  
Groveton Baptist Church

All are welcome and  
encouraged to  
participate

**MEET THE CANDIDATES**

All Mt. Vernon School Board & Mt. Vernon District  
Supervisor candidates will be at this meeting.

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

### *History in Our Own Backyard: Meet Mr. Daniel Schneider*



He served in the Pacific in 1941, in Korea in the 50s, and in Germany during the Cold War missile crisis. He heard Dr. Martin Luther King deliver the *I Have a Dream* speech. He touched the Hope Diamond. He brushed shoulders with Lyndon B. Johnson. Our Spring Bank neighbor, Mr. Daniel Schneider of 6617 Oak Drive, has grazed more historic events than younger generations can remember for a U.S. history test. Perhaps you've seen him in his Army-issue camo jacket, assessing the day's yard work, or taking a walk around the neighborhood. He's a man with a sharp memory and a keen sense of observation. He not only remembers the big picture—being one of the many on that hot day in 1963—but the minutia as well, like the cold bench that he slept on in the Natural History Museum during the 1968 race riots, on those nights when he'd been commissioned to guard the Hope Diamond. He's a man of many facets.

Mr. Schneider, a Fort Belvoir-trained Army Engineer, came to Spring Bank after serving in two official wars and completing a final tour as a missile sergeant in Germany for the USAR (United States Army Europe). After he and his late wife Ruth, whom he met at a USO function in DC, purchased their brick house from the Red Cross in 1963, Mr. Schneider started his second career in security and exhibits at the Smithsonian. He remained at the museum until his retirement in 1980. While Mr. Schneider claims that since he retired he's been "doin a lotta nothin," he maintains a higher profile in the neighborhood than many of its younger residents. Neighbors often spot him taking walks or tending his garden, and his presence in Spring Bank is multigenerational.

Schneider and his wife, the late Mrs. Ruth Schneider, raised five children on Oak Drive. Mrs. Schneider worked in finance at a J.C. Penney on Richmond Highway and taught Sunday School at the Groveton Baptist Church, while the Schneider children attended our local schools. In recent years, the Schneider's youngest daughter, Mary Tapp, lived on Fleming with her husband Bill and their two children, one of whom has since moved back to the neighborhood. Ruth Tapp, named after her grandmother, has lived with Mr. Schneider, or "Grandad," since 2011 to keep him company and to help while she attends George Mason University. Tapp fondly remembers neighborhood potlucks and Halloween block parties with her many friends in the area. Her childhood home, she says, was the hub for their activity, while "Nana and Grandad's" house on Oak was the place for family gatherings—Fourth of July parties, dinners, and even wheelbarrow rides.

Mr. Schneider and his family, indeed, have deep roots in Spring Bank. He and his granddaughter both agree that the area remains a safe, family-friendly place to live. Their complaints about it are minimal and not much different than anyone else's—traffic speeds and, of course, water runoff. He likens Oak Drive after a rain to the Mississippi, and his backyard to Lake Erie. Despite the perennial drainage issues, however, Mr. Schneider has never had any desire to leave Spring Bank, which is encouraging news for present and future residents. His attitude for living peacefully in Spring Bank for over fifty years is pretty simple: "People come and go," he says. "The ones you don't like, you stay away from."

Fortunately, Mr. Schneider has encountered few people over the years he wouldn't invite into his home. If you happen to be around 6617 Oak Drive, and want to hear more, about the presidents he's met, about a war that almost happened, or even about how to grow a potato, go ahead and stop in. The best lessons are learned firsthand!

*The "Neighbor" column provides interested Spring Bank residents, both new and established, an opportunity to share some details about themselves and about their thoughts on the neighborhood. If you would like to share your thoughts about life in Spring Bank, or if you would like to hear more from one of your neighbors, contact Tanya Greenfeld @greenfeld.tanya@gmail.com.*

## Addy and Kye's Kitchen

Homemade Cinnamon-Sugar or Artisan Bread

Honey Roasted Peanut Butter

Homemade Peach Jam!

**Only \$7 Each.**

Delivered Fresh to Your Door!

Contact [addisongreenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:addisongreenfeld@gmail.com) to order



## Fall Projects: 5 Great Ideas to Improve Your Home

*By Michelle Zelsman*

Are you spending too much time and money making the wrong renovations to your home? If you are like most homeowners, it can be hard to know which projects ultimately add the most value. Fortunately, there is online guidance detailing which improvements show the greatest return on investment.

Before you start tearing down walls and ripping up floors, take a look at this list of 5 renovations that will likely boost your home's value this fall!

**#1: Roof Replacement** Of the top five value-adding renovations listed by the cost-value ratio report, roof replacement led the way. Its value rose nearly 6% from 2014 to 2015. This renovation falls right in line with all of other improvements that made gains over the last year—fixing the necessities.

**#2: Garage Door Replacement** This year it is clear that the trend is toward making repairs and replacements that add value to the overall function and security of the home. Replacing old wood garage doors with new and technologically advanced garage doors improved its return on investment by more than five and a half percent over the year.

**#3: Steel Door Entry** Adding a steel door entry made nearly as much of an increase in value as garage door replacements. Up in value by 5.4% over the year, replacing your front door with a more secure 20-gauge steel door is a great renovation for this fall. The more expensive fiberglass replacement entry door was the only high value renovation that made gains.

**#4: Siding Replacement** Though it is easy to clean with a good power washer, vinyl siding is often considered of lower quality compared to some of the other materials available today. Instead, stone veneers are taking the place of vinyl siding. This improvement was only second to steel doors in ROI. The cost-value report showed a more than 3% increase in value for replacing vinyl siding.

**#5: Wood Window Replacement** Similar to vinyl siding replacement, wood windows are not as durable as some of the sturdier contemporary windows. That is why wood window replacements are high on the report for value adding renovations. These replacements can be made for just a few thousand dollars and will greatly improve your asking price.

### ***Are You Making the Wrong Improvements?***

The cost-value report also points out that location plays a large role in return on investment for the more than 100 improvements surveyed. Some parts of the country that see less rainfall and fewer storms saw the greatest returns on outdoor improvements like patios and landscaping.

Other parts of the country saw a much better return for minor kitchen remodels and basement renovations. Depending on where you live, you could be focusing on the wrong things.

Local real estate professionals are a great source of information when it comes to what improvements are seeing the biggest excitement from potential buyers. And, as with most things, it's best to do your research before you get started!

# President's Letter

Fall is here! The kids have started school, the band is playing at West Potomac, the days are getting shorter and the temperature is dropping and our Association meetings start this month. We have a good lineup of speakers/topics for our fall meetings. We will have the candidates for the Fairfax County School Board and the candidates for the Supervisor of the Mt Vernon District at our October meeting. Please come out and support this meeting. This shows the politicians that we care and will help to ensure we are able to get our priorities addressed when the successful nominee takes office. More information will follow via the Google Group (see below). We will also have the Developer (Cafritz) of the Kings Crossing Property at our November meeting.

After many years of neglect, our roads were repaved this summer. While this has been a great improvement to our neighborhood, it has also resulted in an increase in the speed of drivers on our roads. Please drive slowly on our streets. There are kids, adults, dogs, and cats (and even mice) crossing the street and we don't have crosswalks for them to cross in.

In our neighborhood we continue to work on several pressing issues. Cafritz is now under contract with JBG to develop the Kings Crossing Property. We will continue to engage with the Community, Supervisor Hyland, Cafritz, and County staff as the proposed development works its way through the process. We are currently waiting for the language for the out of turn Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Re-Zoning application to initiate the process of developing the area just to the North of Fairview Drive between the Wendy's and Pizza Hut.

As a reminder, the proposal was reduced to include just residences as Walmart was unwilling to agree to allow access to their parking lot from the new proposed development. The SBCA Development committee continues to work with the Developer and the County to ensure our requirements are met. There is still about six months before we will see site plans from the developer. We will continue to stay engaged and ensure our neighborhood priorities are met (including minimizing the impact to residences of Fairview, reducing the impact of through traffic on our neighborhood and improving infrastructure including sidewalks/trails and gutters).

There will be several opportunities to provide input to the process over the next year. Again, the developer will be back at our November meeting to present on the status of the project this fall. The SBCA wouldn't be what it is today if it weren't for its volunteers. Thanks for all you do. If you are interested in Volunteering please contact me at [jdemon@gmail.com](mailto:jdemon@gmail.com) or 703-791-9239 and I will help you get started. There are a lot of opportunities to help out.

Finally, there is a membership form at the back of this newsletter. If you have not paid your \$15 dues to SBCA for the year, please do so. Your dues help us to print newsletters, pay dues to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations and contribute to events benefiting the neighborhood. We are YOUR neighborhood association and want to hear from you! We have several forums to communicate. If you have an issue you would like to focus on, please let us know.

We host monthly SBCA meetings (the third Tuesday of every month (we take a break June – Aug and we skip December) at 7:30pm at the Groveton Baptist Church. All are welcome to attend. If there is something you would like to discuss at the meetings, please contact me directly and I will ensure your issue is addressed. If you can't make it, or are not the meeting type, other communication options include the new Spring Bank website (<http://springbankca.weebly.com>) where most of the information about our neighborhood is posted including the minutes from the monthly meetings. There is a Spring Bank Google Group (basically an email forum) (<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/springbankva>) where a lot of information about goings on in and around the neighborhood is communicated.

We also have a Spring Bank Next Door site (<https://springbank.nextdoor.com>) where some information about our neighborhood is communicated and you can see what other neighborhoods near ours are talking about. Both are free and easy forums for communication. If none of those works, please feel free to contact me directly, [jdemon@gmail.com](mailto:jdemon@gmail.com) or 703-861-9545. I would be happy to discuss neighborhood issues with you.

There are a large number of people in the Neighborhood participating in the SBCA but there are still a lot of people who aren't. Let me know if there is something we can do differently. This is your neighborhood whether you attend the meetings or not.

Joshua Delmonico  
SBCA President



# advertising

or **advertizing**

[ad-ver-tahy-zing]

Spell

Syllables

[Examples](#)

[Word Origin](#)

**noun**

1. the act or practice of calling public attention to one's product, service, need, etc., especially by paid announcements in newspapers and magazines, over radio or television, on billboards, etc.:  
*to get more customers by advertising.*
2. paid announcements; [advertisements](#).

## Advertise in Spring Bank News!

*The Spring Bank News* is now accepting advertising for our community newsletter.

If you are interested in advertising in future newsletters, please send you ad to Michelle Zelsman at [MLZelsman@gmail.com](mailto:MLZelsman@gmail.com).

Send your payment, payable to Spring Bank Community Association, to the SBCA Treasurer, Jim Ernst. At 6616 Oak Dr, Alexandria, VA 22306.

### Ad Rates

- \$100 for a full-page ad
- \$50 for a half-page ad
- \$30 for a quarter-page ad
- \$20 for an eighth-page (business card size) ad

All proceeds will be used to offset the cost of printing the newsletter.

