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# Spring Bank News

The Spring Bank Community Newsletter



## Celebrating Neighbor-hood

This summer, the Spring Bank neighborhood has several events planned to bring neighbors together.

**First Fridays**, hosted at a neighbor's house, is a two-hour social event designed to get to know one another.

Josh and Lisa Delmonico have an outdoor oven and want to give the communal oven concept a go. Bring something to cook or bake on their wood fired oven at Spring Bank's **Neighborhood Bake**. Be sure to also bring your sense of culinary adventure, patience and appetite! Communal ovens have a long-standing tradition worldwide and are an opportunity for communities to come together—not just to break bread, but to actually make it!

In September we'll honor the end of the summer at **Outdoor Movie Night**. Bring a chair and a blanket for a kid-friendly movie under the stars. Popcorn and light refreshments will be provided.

Ideas for additional social events are welcome. Please contact Lisa Delmonico.

And check out Spring Bank's new logo! (*See logo above.*)

### Save the Date!

<p><b>June 5</b> Tillet House, Fairview</p> <p><b>July 3</b> Morris House, Phillips</p> <p><b>August 1</b> Davis House, Phillips</p>	<p><b>First Friday</b></p>	<p><b>September 11</b> Jones House, Oak</p> <p><b>October 2</b> Brinley House, Dawn</p>	<p><b>Neighborhood Bake</b> <b>July 25</b> Delmonico House, Oak</p> <p><b>Outdoor Movie Night</b> <b>September 25</b> Delmonico House, Oak (<i>weather permitting</i>)</p>
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## Spring Bank in the Civil War

*By Martin Tillet*

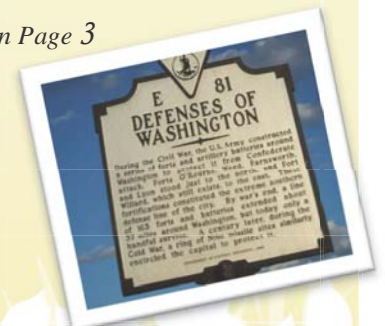
Situated in the pedestrian access area adjacent to Richmond Highway between Pizza Hut and the Kings Crossing Shopping Center is a Virginia Historical marker noting the various defensive forts and artillery batteries that were in this section of Fairfax County.

All of these are gone today except for Fort Willard, now a Fairfax County park in the midst of the Belle Haven community. The largest of these defensive forts was Fort Lyon, now home to the Huntington Metro Station.

Anyone standing on the top parking deck of the station on North Kings Highway can easily see the expansive view of the surrounding countryside and quickly understand why this was an ideal site for a defensive fortification.

Unknown to many in the area was a huge camp for Union soldiers that was located where much of the present day Spring Bank Community of the Mt. Vernon District of Fairfax County exists today.

*Continued on Page 3*



## You Only Get One Chance to Make a First Impression

Now that the weather is staying nice, many of us want to play in the dirt! So I spent a few hours (ok...an entire night) surfing around for some landscaping ideas to make my yard more attractive.

Afterall, we only get one chance to make a first impression, right?

On the advice of HGTV's Garden website, I've stolen techniques used by professional landscapers to make more efficient use of my gardening time and money. Here's one I really like:

Install a short brick path that leads to your door or a small courtyard to bring interest and detail to your front yard space. Not only will it give your home an air of mystique, it's also very inviting as either a space for sitting quietly and watching people or as a comfortable spot to welcome neighbors for a relaxing chat.

## Turning Fairchild to a County Park

At the April Spring Bank Community Association meeting, residents were introduced to the two candidates for the Virginia 44<sup>th</sup> District Legislative seat, and got an opportunity to ask questions. The Democratic primary will be held June 9.

The candidates toured the former Fairchild property, learned about its history and Spring Bank's interest in getting the property transferred to the Fairfax County Park Authority. Like Supervisor Hyland, both candidates expressed their support. One of the candidates suggested Spring Bank residents, as well as neighboring communities, organize a petition with the goal to get several hundred signatures as a demonstration of local interest.

The petition is available online at <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/petition-to-the-mount-vernon-supervisor-to>. Please review and sign the petition in support of transferring the former Fairchild property to a county park. The more signatures the greater our likelihood to achieve our goal.

Residents interested in a walking tour of the Fairchild property, please contact Martin Tillett.

Please also review and sign the Petition to the Mt. Vernon Supervisor to Preserve and Protect Existing Woodlands for Future Generations by Creating a Fairfax County Park on the Former Fairchild Property in this newsletter. Please ask others to sign the petition as well.



## 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

## Spring Bank During the Civil War *(Continued from Page 1)*

The first Union soldiers to occupy this patch of land were from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Brigade. In a book, *Army Life In Virginia, The Civil War Letters of George G. Benedict* Edited by Eric Ward, Benedict provides substantial detail about Camp Vermont, built fall 1862 on land that was part of the Spring Bank Manor.

George G. Benedict, a Vermont newspaper editor, enrolled with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont Brigade as a private and was sent to Washington, D.C. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vermont was situated at various existing camps in D.C. Benedict was in Virginia for several weeks before receiving orders that moved his unit two miles south of Alexandria on the Mount Vernon Road. Upon their arrival a veritable snowstorm left 5 inches of accumulated snow. The camp was thereby christened “Vermont” for it’s more-Vermont-than-Virginia qualities.

The soldiers built the camp anticipating they would be in the area throughout the winter and Benedict’s account illustrates how they constructed log structures with canvas tents serving as the roofs, and makeshift stoves for heat and the additional structures for a mess hall, kitchen facilities, infirmary and other necessities. He mentions the sloping hillside by a stream of good water in close proximity to the family mansion of the Spring Bank Manor. This area is part of the Fairchild property located behind Kings Crossing.

During their stay at Camp Vermont, the soldiers were assigned duties primarily to assist with the construction of the nearby forts and batteries. Some troops were posted to sentry duty along the Occoquan River and would rotate back and forth from the camp to sentry post for several days until fresh troops were sent back. It was reported that as many as 5,000 soldiers were encamped in this area at different times.

Eventually, units from the Vermont brigades joined Union forces to the south and the west, and they participated in numerous historic campaigns and battles of the Civil War in Virginia. The camp they constructed was subsequently occupied by other Union Army units either on their way to or returning from the battlefields.

Many residents of Spring Bank today live here because of the proximity to the Pentagon and Fort Belvoir where they make their living as both civilian and military employees. 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 and began the Quander legacy that remains as part of the community today.

I am happy to take interested residents on a tour of the Fairchild property to see firsthand where Camp Vermont is believed to have been located. As you garden and dig in your yards, watch for relics from Civil War days. Several residents—myself included—have found evidence of Camp Vermont in the form of buttons, bullets, and even a pointed ferrule for a small flag pole.

Interested neighbors can read more about George G. Benedict’s accounts about Camp Vermont, by visiting <https://books.google.com/books?id=Gn3JxfMZo7YC&pg=PA244&lpg=PA244&dq=Spring+Bank+Manor+va&source=bl&ots=1E4ch4pIkW&sig=EbyFTyim2PPEuN1LF2#v=onepage&q=Spring%20Bank%20Manor%20va&f=false>. Benedict’s accounts begin on page 69. Hard copies of the book are available on Amazon.

**Save The Date**

The next meeting of the  
Spring Bank Community Association

**May 19, 7:30 PM**  
Groveton Baptist Church

All are welcome and  
encouraged to  
participate

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors: *Mrs. Nancye Campbell*

By *Tanya Greenfeld*

Some of my most cherished childhood memories came from discoveries I made while roaming in the woods and fields of my childhood home in rural Pennsylvania—catching crayfish, playing hide-and-seek between the rows of corn on a neighboring farm. There's a special charm in wandering unattended, exploring, living in the moment. A recent conversation with Mrs. Nancye Campbell of Fairview Drive brought me back to that place and time. As a new Spring Bank resident, I felt cheered to know she experienced the same childhood experiences right here in our neighborhood.

A resident of Spring Bank on and off since 1956, Mrs. Campbell recalled some of her own childhood. As a student at Bucknell Elementary School and William Cullen Bryant Middle, now West Potomac High, Quander Brook was the neighborhood meeting place for children of all ages. These "free-range children," a popular term of late, often met at the brook and played for hours, catching tadpoles, swinging on rope swings and "just being." As a teenager, she and her friends met after school and roamed the neighborhood, getting sodas and snacks at Chauncey's market or the old Krispy Cream. Beacon Hill Shopping plaza was home to small stops, a Dixie Pig Restaurant, and the Beacon Hill Airport.

After college Mrs. Campbell settled in Maryland. Campbell continued to play a role in Spring Bank, visiting family and attending services at the Groveton Baptist Church. When she and her husband moved back to Virginia in the late 90s, Spring Bank was a target neighborhood for them.

"We wanted to settle in Virginia," Campbell said, "but the communities that were affordable did not have the 'neighborliness' of this one." She, like many residents of Spring Bank, new and old, values the "quality of the neighborliness" if not the "quality of the neighborhood."

Her compliments and her complaints are much the same as those shared by others. In light of these issues, Mrs. Campbell believes that the Spring Bank Community Association is a good thing.

Established only recently with the help of Mr. Martin Tillet, Mr. David Dale, and Mr. Josh Delmonico, the SBCA provides some defense against the encroaching development that affects our water and drainage problems while reestablishing that sense of "neighborliness" that inspired Mrs. Campbell and her husband to move back to her childhood neighborhood. From the outset, she says, members did not want to establish a strict neighborhood covenant, which she believes contributes better comfort levels among residents. The neighborhood is not "rule-bound," and that makes the atmosphere of the meetings friendlier, a place where people can share common interests. She also thinks the Social Committee's First Fridays will strengthen neighborhood solidarity by giving residents a chance to spend more time together rather than simply passing one another on the street.

And Mrs. Campbell knows she's not the only one looking for solutions to problems like water run-off from Chili's, the bank, the condominiums, and WalMart. She and her neighbors on Fairview have agreed to split the costs of drainage solutions on their adjoining properties; but there is still more to be done everywhere. Campbell doesn't just wonder how to protect her own piece of property, but wonders how to do it while living in harmony with all the neighbors. She welcomes more guest speakers and grassroots projects around the neighborhood—neighbors helping neighbors. Mrs. Campbell says if we can help each other with projects, we can show the county how close we are, and how much we care.

Perhaps we can. Spring Bank is home to many others like Campbell who have called it home for decades or generations. Spring Bank, as Campbell says, is still "well-kept and neighborly," and it can be even more. With a positive attitude and a little bit of neighborliness, we can accomplish a lot—not just fix up our own spaces—perhaps we can even rejuvenate Quander Brook, a public space where our children can be free-range once again.

*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.*

### Neighbors Helping Neighbors: The Groveton Baptist Church Food Pantry and Clothes Closet

We are often approached by people in need. Should someone approach you for help, direct him or her to the **Groveton Baptist Church**. Twice a month, the church opens its food pantry and clothes closet to those in need who provide a photo id.

#### Hours and Days of Operation:

##### GBC Food Pantry:

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

##### GBC Clothes Closet:

Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Fridays: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



## Home Sales Spike Nationwide in March

*By Michelle Zelsman*

The National Association of Realtors (NAR) released a summary of home sales data showing that existing home sales rose in March from last month and a year ago as better weather and release of pent up demand helped close homes.

“March sales are the highest pace since September 2013,” said NAR, jumping up 10.4 percent from a year ago, while sales moved up 6.1 percent from last month. Nationally, it takes approximately 52 days for a home to go from listing to a contract in the current housing market.

In Fairfax County, 3,609 homes were for sale at the end of April compared to 2,667 a year ago; 1,924 went under contract and 1,306 were sold. The average period of time a home to stays on the market in Fairfax County is 1.88 months.

Incomes are increasing at 2 percent while home prices have experienced more meaningful gains that only a boost in inventories can stabilize.

Defaults are declining, which will not help inventory, so a boost in new home construction is needed to help with the housing shortage. With all the new home construction in our area, we are meeting much of the housing needs.

The credit box is opening, so there is time to take advantage of mortgage rates while homes are still relatively affordable.

*Zelsman is a local realtor specializing in Alexandria's neighborhoods. To learn more about local real estate or for a complimentary valuation of your home, contact Michelle at 703.768.2827 or visit MichelleZelsman.com.*

## Margherita Spaghetti Squash & Chicken

**Prep Time: 10 Minutes | Cook Time: 80 Minutes**

### Ingredients:

1 large spaghetti squash	1 teaspoon dried basil
2 medium chicken breasts	salt and pepper, to taste
15 cherry tomatoes, cut in half	2 lemons
5 leaves fresh basil, torn	2 tablespoons olive oil, divided

### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Stab the spaghetti squash with a sharp knife around the outside to allow steam to escape
2. Place the spaghetti squash on a baking sheet and bake for 80 minutes.
3. When the spaghetti squash has about 15 minutes left to cook, cut the chicken breasts into small-ish pieces, sprinkle with salt, pepper, and dried basil, then cook in a frying pan with the juice from 1 lemon and 1 tablespoon olive oil. Should take about 8 to 10 minutes, turning often. When cooked through, remove from heat.
4. When the spaghetti squash is done, remove from oven and cut in half, lengthwise. Scoop out the seeds with a spoon, then use a fork to scrape the spaghetti-like flesh into the center of the gourd.
5. Add the juice from 1/2 lemon and 1/2 tablespoon olive oil to each half. Sprinkle with salt and pepper, and toss.
6. Add the chicken, tomatoes and fresh basil, and mix well.



# President's Letter

What a great time of year in Spring Bank. The flowers are blooming, leaves have filled out the trees, my bees are collecting pollen and it is finally warming up. For those of you who don't know me, I am Joshua Delmonico, the new president of the Spring Bank Citizens Association (SBCA). I succeeded Martin Tillett, who worked tirelessly the last several years—and continues to do so on our behalf to ensure our neighborhood is the best it can be. Thank you Martin, and thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your next president.

There is a lot going on in Spring Bank and our surrounding area. I am sure you have noticed the major changes to the Route 1 corridor—a multitude of new shopping centers and residences, and a potential widening of the road. There's even movement on the development of a Rapid Transit along Rt. 1 and Metro.

In our neighborhood we continue to work on several pressing issues. The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations voted unanimously on a resolution requesting Supervisor Gerry Hyland initiate an out-of-turn Comprehensive Plan Amendment and Re-Zoning application to begin the process of developing the area just to the North of Fairview Drive between the Wendy's and Pizza Hut. The proposal includes residences and ground floor retail. The SBCA Development committee continues to work with the Developer and the County to ensure our requirements 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. The developer will be back at one of our upcoming meetings to present on the status of the project.

The SBCA social committee started First Friday's in Spring Bank last year. These events are hosted by a different neighbor every month. Please contact Lisa Delmonico at [Lisa.Delmonico@yahoo.com](mailto:Lisa.Delmonico@yahoo.com) if you are interested in hosting a first Friday. A \$50 donation from SBCA is available to offset the cost of hosting. First Friday's are a great way to meet your neighbors. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

We continue our campaign to have the Fairchild Property converted to a Fairfax County Park. An online petition is accessible through the Spring Bank website (see below) and a hard copy is attached at the end of the newsletter.

We have most of the candidates for Supervisor Hyland's seat and the House of Delegates seat lined up for our May 19 meeting—a great opportunity to hear them speak before the June primary. Your support at this meeting shows the politicians that we care and that helps ensure our priorities are addressed when the successful nominee takes office. Follow the Google Group (see below) for more.

The SBCA wouldn't be what it is today if it weren't for its volunteers. I appreciate everyone's effort keeping Spring Bank a great place to live! If you want to volunteer, please contact me at [jdelmon@gmail.com](mailto:jdelmon@gmail.com) or 703-791-9239 and I will find an opportunity that interests you.

We are YOUR neighborhood association and want to hear from you! We have several forums to communicate. We host SBCA meetings the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Groveton Baptist Church. All are welcome. If there is something you want to discuss, please contact me directly and I will ensure your issue is addressed. If you can't be at the meeting, 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. Additionally, we have a Spring Bank Google Group, basically an email forum, <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/springbankva>. It's a lively forum about our community. We also have a Spring Bank Next Door site (<https://springbank.nextdoor.com>) where you can participate in conversations about our neighborhood and learn what's happening in neighborhoods near ours. Both are free and easy forums for communication. If those don't work, please contact me directly—I am always happy to discuss neighborhood issues with you.

There are a large number of people in the neighborhood participating in the SBCA, but there are a lot of people who aren't. Let me know if there is something we can do differently. This is your neighborhood.

Finally, there is a membership form attached 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.

Joshua Delmonico  
SBCA President



# FAIRCHILD PETITION

## PETITION TO THE MOUNT VERNON SUPERVISOR TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT EXISTING WOODLANDS FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS BY CREATING A FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK ON THE FORMER FAIRCHILD PROPERTY

Woodlands and open space is disappearing. As County residents, we can do something about it. This petition drive is by citizens of Fairfax County to request that the current and/or incoming Supervisor of the Mount Vernon District take action to preserve the former Fairchild property and effectuate a transfer of the land to the Park Authority so that it will be preserved as a County Park.

**WHEREAS**, the land parcel known as the Fairchild property in the 6300 block of Richmond Highway located on approximately nine acres of woodlands is environmentally significant as it contains several headwater branches and springs of the Quander Brook stream valley of the Belle Haven watershed;

**WHEREAS**, the land parcel is historically significant as being the location of Camp Vermont, a camp for Union forces during the Civil War era;

**WHEREAS**, air and water quality improve when land like this is preserved and the ecological services provided by this property in its restored natural state as a park far outweigh the public cost of the erosion and sedimentation damage it is generating in its degraded state to Hunting Creek, the Potomac, and the Chesapeake Bay;

**WHEREAS**, this property was given to Fairfax County as a land donation for the expressed purpose of becoming community serving parkland; and the property was previously shown on Fairfax County planning maps and documents as future parkland;

**WHEREAS**, Fairfax County has embarked on environmental initiatives to preserve forested areas to help improve air quality and to protect, restore and enhance our water quality, especially at the headwaters of rivers and streams;

**WHEREAS**, the Mount Vernon Planning District has the second lowest percentage of County parkland compared with other Fairfax County Planning Districts;

**WHEREAS**, the Mount Vernon Planning District has the fourth highest percentage of population density compared with other Fairfax County Planning Districts, and this density will increase with new metro stations planned at Beacon Mall and Hybla Valley;

**WHEREAS**, the Kings Crossing and Penn Daw area of the Mount Vernon Planning District is rapidly urbanizing with increased development close to the Huntington Metro Rail Station and attracting young professionals, who expect park amenities like walking, biking, and dog walking trails;

**WHEREAS**, land values are increasing in this area making future land acquisition cost prohibitive; We, the undersigned, citizens of Fairfax County Virginia call upon the members of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board to accept transfer of ownership from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors of this donated property to add to their inventory of land holdings and to work with County staff and agencies, citizen and local businesses to seek strategies and solutions to mitigate damages in compliance with the Board of Supervisors approved Belle Haven Watershed Plan and to include this land parcel in planning for future park and recreation resources in the Mount Vernon Planning District.

We, the undersigned, citizens of Fairfax County, support the creation of a Fairfax County Park on the former Fairchild Property and urge the Mt Vernon Supervisor to take immediate action to preserve this land as a County Park for use by generations to come.





# I SUPPORT THE FAIRCHILD PETITION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please sign this petition online or above and return this page to Joshua Delmonico 6613 Oak Drive, Alexandria, VA 22306.