

# GUM SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, Issue 4

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## Welcome Back!

We hope you enjoyed your summer vacation. We hope that you will Discover/Re-discover Your Neighborhood—Gum Springs!

A special neighborhood card that includes a calendar was distributed within the community and at the Gum Springs Community Center. If you did not receive one, they will also be available during the September 9<sup>th</sup> community meeting.

## Complaints about the restriping of Sherwood Hall Lane (SHL)

Although we did not meet during July and August, the hot topic during that period was the restriping section of Sherwood Hall Lane that affects Gum Springs.

The Civic Association received numerous complaints about the re-striping of SHL to include the elimination of parking for the two churches (Bethlehem and Cornerstone). The community was informed that the parking would remain but it was eliminated with the placement of the bike lane.

The section from SHL & Holland Road to SHL & Fordson Road is approximately one-tenth of a mile or approximately 1-city block before it conflicts with the bike lane. The parking for Mt. Woodley was eliminated for this section of the bike lane. **Con't on page 2**

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*Gum Springs Community Center*

*8100 Fordson Road*

*888-740-6009 (Civic Association)*

[www.gumspringscivicasassociation.com](http://www.gumspringscivicasassociation.com)

## Community Meetings

The Civic Association is the voice for the Gum Springs community. You should support your community organization if you live, work or worship in the Gum Springs community. Community meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center. No meetings are held during July and August. The next Civic Association **meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014**. Dues are \$5 per person. Your dues are used solely for community purposes to a community newsletter, flyers, membership dues in the MVCCA, fees to maintain our 501(c)(4) tax exempt status with the IRS and registration fees with the Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation.

We also use the funds to support special programs and activities for community residents.

If you would like to support the Civic Association by making a donation, make your check or money order payable to NGSCA and mail to: NGSCA; P.O. Box 6112; Alexandria, VA 22306 or bring to a meeting.

***The Civic Association is here for the community it serves!***

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**Bike Lane:** The bike lane was strongly opposed by the Gum Springs community because the community felt that the distance was insufficient (approximately less than three-tenths of a mile or 2-city blocks) and ended at an unknown location between Bethlehem BC and the Thrift Store. Instead, for safety reasons, Gum Springs supported the “Share the Road” approach for bicyclists.

Now that VDOT and our local and state officials have approved and implemented the bike lane, the bike lane is viewed as a safety hazard and the Civic Association has requested that the section of the bike lane in Gum Springs be “black out” because the bike lane:

- Terminates in a location that leaves the bicyclists vulnerable;
- Is in the door zone of parked vehicles; and
- Is routed to the right of right-turning traffic

The remaining section of SHL for the bike lane (SHL & Parkers Lane to SHL & Ft. Hunt Road):

- Is more than three times the distance of the section for Gum Springs;
- Allowed residents of the communities along that section of the bike lane route and its church to retain their on-street parking;
- Does not have the pavement challenges endured by Gum Springs; and
- Has less safety challenges because it is much wider, longer and has better sight conditions for vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians.

**Left-turn Lanes @ SHL & Fordson Road:** The recently implemented left-turn lanes have made that intersection dangerous. The lanes actually share the same lane but in opposite direction with little room for mobility once each is committed to make a left turn from SHL onto Fordson Road regardless of the direction of travel.

The Civic Association provided two viable options to improve the safety at that intersection:

- Install a green light for the left-turn lanes; or
- Install a green light and rotation traffic signal similar to the signal at Ft. Hunt Road & Belle View Blvd.

Updated information will be posted on the community website: [www.gumspingscivicasociation.com](http://www.gumspingscivicasociation.com).

## **Complaint Form for SHL Re-striping**

The Civic Association continues to receive concerns and complaints about the re-striping of SHL that affects the Gum Springs community. In order to consolidate and eliminate duplicate concerns and complaints from the community, you can submit your concern or complaint electronically using the complaint form on the community website:

[www.gumspingscivicasociation.com](http://www.gumspingscivicasociation.com). Verbal complaints will continue to be accepted.

Any update concerning VDOT's response(s) to the community's concerns will be addressed during the September 9<sup>th</sup> community meeting.

## **Be Proud You Live in Gum Springs!**

Gum Springs was not transformed from a “muddy hole” to a diverse community overnight. There are residents who are totally unaware of the history of Gum Springs. Some may also feel they do not live in Gum Springs. If you are “bounded” by Richmond Highway, Boswell Avenue/Schellhorn Road/Sherwood Hall Lane/Holland Road and Little Hunting Creek, then you LIVE IN GUM SPRINGS!

As an ongoing effort to provide the history of the oldest African-American community in Fairfax County, we have put together a small series of documents about the community in which you live—GUM SPRINGS—for your viewing pleasure on the community website.

## **Fordson Place Grand Opening**

The Grand Opening for Fordson Place will be held on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The community will have an opportunity to meet its new neighbors: Pollo Campero, Peet's Coffee, Verizon Wireless, Hair Cuttery, Vitamin Shoppe and Paisano's Pizza. There will be lots of freebies, food, samples, gifts, coupons and more.

***Attend monthly community meetings!***

***Pay your dues! And donate!!!***

***Support Your Community Organization  
if you live, work, or worship in  
Gum Springs!***