



Cora Faley, the founding chairman of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls speaks to supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).  
 Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) meets with Cora Faley and representatives from the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls.

**With or Without Walls** Seniors in Burke and West Springfield look for more activity space.

**By The Petersburg Times Staff**

**L**arry Mark is 83, lives in West Springfield and practices tai chi with his wife Mary. They go to a class that meets once a week at the Burke Conservancy on Burke County Parkway. "It's interesting," he said, "to help your balance and strengthen your neck and other muscles. Everybody needs better balance."

Mark also volunteers as the class "monitor." Basically, he takes attendance and reports it to a coordinator. The class meets 83 for an eight-week session, but he gets a pass on that for rescheduling. Volunteers help keep the class cost down; the fees go to Fairfax County to pay the instructor.

"This is not the class in part of the Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW), an initiative offering a variety of activities for the elderly. In addition to the tai chi, classes include line dancing, yoga, zumba, Hawaiian hula, self-defense, ballroom dancing, walking clubs, book clubs, genealogy and needle arts."

The BWSSCWoW is the project of Cora Faley, a retired Burke resident. She got the idea after driving the 80-year-old women from her church, Church of the Trinity in Burke, to the Lorton Senior Center for Active Adults off Route 1.

"Every time I pick them up," Faley said, "they'd say, 'Oh Cora, why do we have to go all the way over there? Why can't we have something nearer here?'" That was shortly after Faley moved in 2007.

**EVEN WITH OVER A DOZEN** senior centers around Fairfax County, Faley and the ladies decided they needed a space to be active together that was more local to them. Faley said she approached then-Bradford district Supervisor Suzanne Babin about the feasibility of building a new facility in their district.

"The answer was the same," said Faley. "Suzanne said, 'There's no money, sir, to get a senior center over here.'"

Faley started approaching churches and other facilities in Burke and West Springfield about opening up space, but didn't get very far without liability coverage from the county. She ended up working with Evan Bruff, the Regional Manager for Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Bruff suggested a network of sites for activities, following models used in other areas, creating a "center without walls." He was able to help Faley get liability cover-

age and soon the BWSSCWoW had homes at Annetta United Universalist Church and the Burke Conservancy in Burke, the Omega Temple in Fairfax Station and Washington Irving Middle School in Springfield, among other locations.

"They run our pilot class in the summer of 2009. One class, over 70 seniors registered. Mark was there at the beginning. "We expanded in that fall," he said, "and have been expanding ever since then. We have 1,200 to 1,400 members on a master list, with around 250 that are registered for 16 classes in different subjects at any one time."

Faley is proud of the opportunities the center offers the swelling senior population. "We provide them with physical fitness, emotional stress and social fitness," she said, "to give them life."

"The classes have become so popular, however, that they're becoming more and more difficult to get into. Increasing our list and the Board of Supervisors' Sept. 9 passage of the FY 2014 Budget Carryover prompted Faley to approach Springfield district Supervisor Pat Herrity about whether some of those funds could be re-programmed to help create a dedicated space for the BWSSCWoW.

Herrity invited Faley to the Fairfax County Government Center on Nov. 13 for a meeting. Faley brought a number of proposals to the table, centered around using the Public Regional Library on Independence Road in Burke as a potential site for the center. She was joined by several Burke seniors including Pacita Aguiar of Burke Lake Gardens, who helped Faley start the center.

Getting a library renovation set to begin next year, Faley requested having exercise flooring added to the library's existing large

conference room and to have priority in making reservations for the room. More significantly, she asked that an expansion be built on the back of the library to house many of the center's classes.

**HERRITY ACKNOWLEDGED** there is a need to help active seniors. But, he said of the Burke's proposal, "If we go this route, does this take the senior center off the table and do you get a half a solution instead of a full solution for Springfield?"

Chris Krawiec, Director of Neighborhood and Community Services, was at the meeting as well. He shared county budget developments dating back to FY 2009 for a new Springfield community center to die. "In your five-year planning stage for construction," that would include a senior center, he said.

"When you're dealing with the budget within Fairfax County, there's over three quarters of a billion dollars of construction needs that are included in that," Leonard continued. "When we talk about senior centers, we talk about the fact that we're competing not only with other business service buildings like community service board facilities and homeless shelters. They're also in competition with libraries and police stations, the same pot of money."

"There are very important things in line here," said Herrity. "This is one of the things in line."

Herrity said the construction plans for the Public Library have long been finalized, but would look into whether an expansion was feasible. He also agreed to check on getting the conference room floor rug removed and restoration priority for the BWSSCWoW. "I don't know whether that can be done, but that's depending on an existing facility and that makes all the sense in the world to me."

Faley and her cadre of seniors left the meeting convinced their voices had been heard.



April 2, 2021 – Good Friday  
 Please pray for Maria Delobe who passed about 930 this morning (Good Friday 4/2/2020), with family around her.

Maria Delobe was a very kind friend with deep Catholic faith and had been a strong supporter of our Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls -- always there during our petitions and demonstrations for a permanent senior center.

On All Souls' Day 2021, let us remember seniors of our Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWoW) who actively supported our petitions/demonstrations for a permanent facility for BWSSCWoW programs and who passed on before the planned 2024 bond referendum, particularly Pacita Aguas (2016) and Maria DeLobe (2021).

**OBITUARY OF PACITA ESPINA AGUAS**  
**Pacita Espina Aguas (91) of Burke, Virginia passed away peacefully on May 24, 2016.**

**SUPPORT INTERIM LEASE IN OUR BURKE/WEST SPRINGFIELD HOMETOWN FOR THE BURKE/WEST SPRINGFIELD SENIOR CENTER WITHOUT WALLS – AND THE 2024 BOND REFERENDUM FOR BWSSCWOW SPRINGFIELD RESOURCE CENTER FOR YOUTH AND SENIORS**

Page 2 of 5 -RIP/Possible Sites and Interim Lease Options for Burke/West Springfield Senior Center Without Walls (BWSSCWw)



MAP #: 0783 01 0008	9645 BURKE LAKE RD
SCHOOL BOARD OF FAIRFAX COUNTY	
<b>Owner</b>	
Name	SCHOOL BOARD OF FAIRFAX COUNTY,
Mailing Address	8115 GATEHOUSE RD FALLS CHURCH VA 22042
Book	00839
Page	0185
<b>Parcel</b>	
Property Location	9645 BURKE LAKE RD VA
Map #	0783 01 0008
Tax District	80000
District Name	SPRINGFIELD
Land Use Code	Public Schools
Land Area (acreage)	10.0472
Land Area (SQFT)	
Zoning Description	R-1(Residential 1 DU/AC)
Utilities	WATER CONNECTED SEWER CONNECTED GAS CONNECTED
County Inventory of Historic Sites	NO
County Historic Overlay District	NO
For further information about the Fairfax County Historic Overlay Districts, <a href="#">CLICK HERE</a>	
For properties within the towns of Herndon, Vienna or Clifton please contact the town to determine if the property is within	



MAP #: 0881 02 0010	9800 OLD KEENE MILL RD
CHURCH CHRISTIAN	
<b>Owner</b>	
Name	CHURCH CHRISTIAN, CALVARY TRS OF
Mailing Address	9800 OLD KEENE MILL RD BURKE VA 22015
Book	04517
Page	0038
<b>Parcel</b>	
Property Location	9800 OLD KEENE MILL RD VA
Map #	0881 02 0010
Tax District	80000
District Name	SPRINGFIELD
Land Use Code	Churches, Synagogues
Land Area (acreage)	
Land Area (SQFT)	202,969
Zoning Description	R-1(Residential 1 DU/AC)
Utilities	WATER CONNECTED SEWER AVAILABLE GAS NOT AVAILABLE
County Inventory of Historic Sites	NO
County Historic Overlay District	NO



MAP #: 0872 01 0024  
BLOSK EVELYN M  
10303 BURKE LAKE RD

**Owner**

Name: BLOSK EVELYN M  
Mailing Address: 10303 BURKE LAKE RD FAIRFAX STATION VA 22039  
Book: 2435  
Page: 0941

**Co-Owners**

BROOKS VIRGINIA L  
BROOKS DAVID  
HUTCHISON JESSICA L

**Parcel**

Property Location: 10303 BURKE LAKE RD FAIRFAX STATION VA 22039  
Map #: 0872 01 0024  
Tax District: 80000  
District Name: SPRINGFIELD  
Land Use Code: Single-family, Detached  
Land Area (acres): 2  
Land Area (SQFT):  
Zoning Description: R-1(Residential) DU(AC)  
Utilities: WATER NOT AVAILABLE  
SEWER NOT AVAILABLE  
GAS NOT AVAILABLE

County Inventory of Historic Sites: NO  
County Historic Overlay District: NO

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For properties within the towns of Herndon, Vienna or Clifton please contact the town to determine if the property is within a town historic district.

MAP #: 0881 01 0031B  
DIX MARY C  
6611 LEE CHAPEL RD

**Owner**

Name: DIX MARY C  
Mailing Address: 6611 LEE CHAPEL RD BURKE VA 22015  
Book: 06881  
Page: 0735

**Parcel**

Property Location: 6611 LEE CHAPEL RD BURKE VA 22015  
Map #: 0881 01 0031B  
Tax District: 80000  
District Name: SPRINGFIELD  
Land Use Code: Single-family, Detached  
Land Area (acres): .9946  
Land Area (SQFT):  
Zoning Description: R-1(Residential) DU(AC)  
Utilities: WATER NOT AVAILABLE  
SEWER NOT AVAILABLE  
GAS NOT AVAILABLE

County Inventory of Historic Sites: NO  
County Historic Overlay District: NO

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**210830 Possible Interim Lease for BWSSCWoW suggested by Elaine Travis:  
Dressbarn Empty Store at Huntsman Square**



Huntsman Square, 7491 Huntsman Blvd ...  
businessyab.com



Huntsman Square, 7491 Huntsman B...  
businessyab.com



Springfield Things: Huntsman Square  
springfieldthings.blogspot.com



### August 18, 2021 - Congratulations Evan Braff



I initiated BWSSCWoW in 2007 and have had the wonderful privilege of working with Evan Braff since 2008 to develop BWSSCWoW into a respected community group (receiving 2011 Molina Award; 2016 Best Practices Honorable Mention from State of Virginia Commonwealth Council on Aging; and 2020 AARP Virginia Andrus Award.

**MANY THANKS EVAN BRAFF AND  
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION TO  
GREATER CAREER CHALLENGES!!!  
CORA FOLEY**