



shepherd'scenter

OF MCLEAN-ARLINGTON-FALLS CHURCH

SHEPHERD'S HERALD -- Spring Edition 2025



Volunteer Appreciation Gathering on April 24

We celebrated Volunteer Appreciation Month with an upbeat gathering of our amazing volunteers on April 24 at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church! Between bites of donuts, bagels and fruit, new volunteers met long term volunteers to share ideas and offer suggestions.

Six board members were in attendance and were able to welcome new volunteers **Lee Ebert, Gail Opitz, Judi Egbert, Dawn Massey** and **Rob Osberg**, among others. One of our newest and most prolific drivers, Lee Ebert, shared a very helpful idea: drivers can ask clients who have Disabled Parking Placards to bring them on their rides, which will enable the driver to make use of the handicapped parking. Thanks Lee!

By sharing information like this, both riders and drivers benefit. Join us for our next volunteer event to meet other volunteers and learn some tips.

-- Carol Edelstein

New Volunteers added from January to March 2025

Tracy Taylor - Judi Egbert - Dana Shamanski

Lisa Dickerson - Holly (Helen) Fake - Peter Farzan

Dwight Cates - Jennifer Nolen - Dan Mulhern

Masumi Weber - Robin Kennedy - Scott Bartram

Kristin Sharifi - Cody Henson - John E. Fricano

Dawn Massey - Christopher Polito - Susan Rieth

Gail Opitz - Colleen Kennedy - Doug Fesler

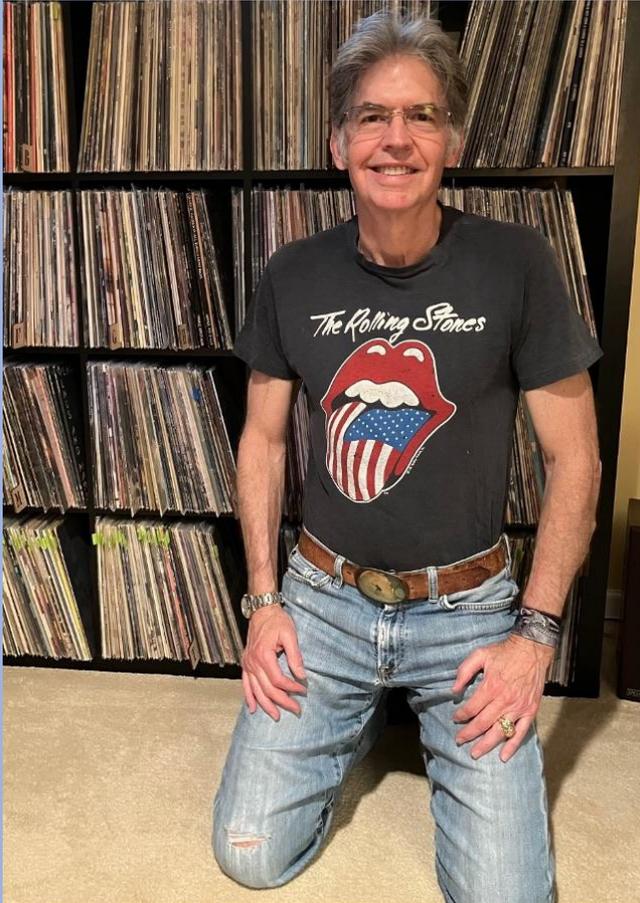
Lorin Youngdahl - Todd Youngdahl

Attention Volunteers!

Have you read the Volunteer Handbook since we updated it last year?

It's always a good idea to refresh yourselves to keep abreast of policy changes.

If you would like to receive an electronic copy, email us at contact@scmafc.org or [view it on our website under the Volunteer tab.](#)



Lee Ebert -- Featured Driver

Lee Ebert enjoys being a frequent driver for our Shepherd's Center. He began driving clients on the 5th of December and completed over 70 rides in his first five months!

Lee was born into a Navy family. His father and grandfather attended the Naval Academy and had careers in the Navy. Lee decided to follow in their footsteps, a bit more rigorously, as he attended the more challenging Military College of South Carolina – The Citadel in Charleston - followed by Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI, to pursue his aspiration to be a Navy Supply Corps Officer. In that role in his Navy career, he was assigned to progressively larger and larger ships, finally to the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69) aircraft carrier, which supports over 6,000 personnel and 90 aircraft

He and his wife settled in Arlington in 2000, just before he was assigned to Naples, Italy for two years, where he still returns to visit friends he made on that assignment. His wife Carole was a teacher and reading specialist in Arlington schools before she retired. His son, another Naval Academy graduate, is currently stationed on submarines while his daughter is the Environmental, Health, Safety and Quality Manager at NUCOR Steel in Texas.

Lee enjoys reading, tinkering with his antique motorcycle, cooking Italian dishes on occasion, visiting his grandsons in Texas, and enjoying retirement with Carole. Besides driving for Shepherd's Center, Lee and his friend Tom are about to launch a series of radio programs on Fairfax Public Access channel 37 called 'Tom and Lee's Vinyl Basement' where they will be curating music sets from their extensive basement vinyl record collections.

- Ed Groark

Ride Statistics - January to March 2025

	Q1 2025
Number of unique riders	93
Number of unique drivers	86
Rides given by volunteers	968
Miles Driven by volunteers	9,063
Total Hours Logged by Drivers	931
Extra Stops Requested by Riders	110

SCMAFC Recent Policy Changes for Ride Destinations and Distances

At the March Board Meeting, it was decided that SCMAFC will no longer provide rides for clients to Loudoun or Montgomery counties given the distance from where most of our volunteer drivers live.

It was also decided that taxis will no longer be provided for rides that are longer than ten miles one-way.

These policy changes became effective on 1 May 2025. If you have any questions or concerns, please email

These policy changes became effective on 1 May 2020. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at contact@scmafc.org.

Learn To Be Aware of Phone SCAMS!

We want to help you stay safe from phone scams. Scammers can be tricky, knowing what to watch out for is your best defense! Here are some common phone scams and what you should know about them.

Calls Pretending to Be Official

What it looks like:

Someone calls saying they are from Social Security, Medicare, or the IRS. They might say you owe money, there's a problem with your benefits, or you'll be arrested if you don't pay right now. They often demand payment with gift cards, wire transfers, or ask for your Social Security or bank numbers.

Remember: Real government agencies usually contact you by mail first. They won't threaten you or demand payment in strange ways like gift cards. Just hang up.

The "Grandchild in Trouble" Scam

What it looks like:

An urgent call from someone claiming to be your grandchild (or another relative) who is in jail, had an accident, or is stranded and needs money immediately. They'll beg you not to tell anyone else.

Remember: Scammers fake distress well. Hang up. Call your grandchild or another family member directly using a phone number you know is theirs to check the story.

Fake Lotteries & Prizes

What it looks like:

You get a call or letter saying you've won a big prize! But first, you need to pay taxes, shipping, or a fee.

Remember: You never have to pay money to receive a legitimate prize. If you didn't enter, you didn't win.

Transportation & Service Scams

Impersonating Your Ride Service:

Someone might call pretending to be from Shepherd's Center or another volunteer transportation program you use. They may claim we now charge for our service or ask for personal information you have already given us.

Unexpected "Helpers":

Be cautious if someone you are not expecting shows up offering a ride or other help, especially if they ask for money or try to get into your home.

Remember: Know how your real transportation program contacts you (specific phone number, names). Call our phone number to get confirmation of anything the caller tells or asks you.

- Advice Courtesy of NVRides

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Jan Gordon - Jan Auerbach

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Ed Groark
Newsletter Editor

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SCMAFC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN: 46-0997432

703-506-2199 / contact@scmafc.org

Donations may be mailed to the address below or via our website

<https://scmafc.org/>



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