Catching Up With SCNOVA

The Official Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia Monthly Newsletter

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In this Issue: Welcoming New Board Members, Make a Difference Day is Oct. 24, and September's Impact Numbers

From the SCNOVA Office

SCNOVA's Office Team (L to R) Melissa Liusch, Nancy Rotunno, Carolyn Pennington, Sally Meyer

Welcoming Stella Chang and Mike Rodis to the SCNOVA Board of Directors

Mike Rodis

Stella Chang

Join us in extending a warm welcome of gratitude to our two newest board members! This month, Michael Rodis and Stella Chang joined the Board of Directors. SCNOVA's all-volunteer board sets the Center's strategic direction, oversees its finances and policies, and supports our staff through committees focused on development, grants, volunteers, finance, and more.

Many board members also roll up their sleeves as drivers, handy helpers, and event volunteers. Michael brings more than four decades of leadership in human capital, helping transform organizations in senior housing, real estate, technology, manufacturing, and hospitality. Now retired, he serves on for-profit and nonprofit boards, with a particular interest in senior housing and support services and in using AI to strengthen talent recruitment, retention, and leadership development. He has lived in the Vienna area for 50 years.

Stella is a compliance attorney whose career has centered on tax and nonprofit law. A graduate of the University of North Carolina, where she attended on a full scholarship, she earned her law degree from The George Washington University Law School, and she is a member of the California and DC Bars. Please join us in welcoming Michael and Stella!

Learn More

"Making a Difference" With the Gift of Time

This Saturday, October 24, is Make a Difference Day, and the Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia suggests a difference that lasts long after the weekend: become a

volunteer driver.

Last year, our volunteers gave more than 2,700 rides and drove over 14,000 miles for older adults in our community. Seventy-seven percent of those rides were for medical care. For many participants, a ride means the difference between keeping an appointment and missing it.

The difference goes both ways. A 20-minute drive to the doctor often turns into a conversation about grandkids, favorite recipes, or how the neighborhood used to look. Over time, those conversations become friendships. Participants feel connected, and drivers find real purpose. This is making a difference beyond a simple financial contribution. Your time and talent build more fulfilling, healthy lives.

If you like to drive, enjoy meeting new people, and want to give back, we'd love to meet you. You choose the rides that fit your week through our online Rides portal, with no required minimum. An experienced driver will help you get started, and you'll earn a gas card when you complete 10 or more rides in a month. Visit our website or call (703) 281-0538 to start your application.

September at a Glance

September was a month of real impact at SCNOVA. Our volunteer drivers provided 271 one-way rides and drove 2,244 miles, getting neighbors to medical appointments, the grocery store, and the activities that keep them connected.

It was also a month of warm welcomes. Twenty-five new transportation participants joined SCNOVA in September, our biggest monthly increase this year. Each one is a neighbor who has chosen to trust us to get them where they need to go, and we're honored to be there.

As our community grows, so does the need for drivers. In September, we met about 89% of ride requests, close to our 90% goal. That still left 17 round trips without a driver, 17 times when a neighbor had to find another way to get to an appointment.

The encouraging part is that it doesn't take much to help. The average one-way ride is just 6 miles, and a round trip often fits into a single morning. One caring adult can make a big difference in an older neighbor's health and well-being.

If you already drive with us, could you pick up one extra ride in October? If you've been thinking about volunteering, there's no better time to start. Learn more about driving with SCNOVA.

Beyond the Road

It's been a joyful season of community. On September 21, we held our annual fundraiser, Rock and Roll for Golden Souls, with live music from "Elvis." Participants and volunteers also shared moving stories about what they gain from one another through SCNOVA. We enjoyed Vienna Oktoberfest, and October began with the first of our five-week mahjong lessons. Thank you to everyone who makes these moments possible!

Calendar of Events

Nov. 2, 2026 - Bingo at Foster's Grille, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Enjoy a fun afternoon of Bingo, snacks, and refreshments. Games start at 4:00 PM. No registration is required. Suggested donation: $10 for 4 Bingo cards. Donations accepted at the door. Special thanks to Foster's Grille for

hosting and donating 20% of refreshment purchases to SCNOVA. *Foster's Grille, 138-A Maple Ave., Vienna.*

Nov. 5, 2026 - Harvest Luncheon: Autumn Americana with the Vienna Community Center, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Don’t let the 250th Anniversary of our nation pass without one more celebration right here in Vienna! Join us for a heartwarming Autumn Americana luncheon featuring a classic American menu. The Vienna Community Band will fill the room with beloved patriotic favorites and Americana tunes. Doors open at 11:30 am. $20.00 non-refundable registration for lunch and entertainment. Click here to reserve your spot or call 703-281-0538 to register. *Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE.*

Nov. 14, 2026 - Get Healthy Vienna EXPO 2026, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

We're joining in on this great event featuring more than 55 Health, Wellness & Fitness vendors from the Greater Vienna area. The 2026 Expo will connect attendees with a wide range of services, solutions, and opportunities that promote wellness and healthy lifestyles. There is no charge for the community to attend! *Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE.*

December 8, 2026 - Holiday Tea and Sweets, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

We are back at St. Mark's for our Annual Holiday Tea and Sweets Celebration. Come ring in the winter holidays with an assortment of holiday teas, yummy sweets, and merry entertainment. Registration opens on November 10th. *St. Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale Rd., Vienna, VA 22181.*

Announcements

Friendly Reminder About Office Hours

Our office phone lines are open Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Staff aren’t available outside those hours or on weekends, so please call during the week if you need help. We’re always happy to hear from you! *(703) 281-0538*

Holiday Hours Reminder

The SCNOVA Office is closed on the following holiday dates:

November 26-27 (Thanksgiving)
We are closed between December 25 and January 3. We will reopen on January 4, 2027.

If you have had a great experience with SCNOVA, please help others find us by leaving us a Google review here.

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WWW.SCNOVA.ORG

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