



MANDR HOUSE 1796-1925
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

*The Official Publication of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, Inc.
Springfield, Virginia*

January 2010

The Ravensworth **F**armer

VOL. XLVI Issue 5

**FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
COORDINATOR:**

Dear Neighbors:

Over a year ago our neighborhood was victim to a horrifying triple homicide that remains unsolved. I remember sitting in the audience of the first Community meeting after the incident and witnessing the consternation and fear that gripped folks' hearts. I also could feel the sense of urgency and desperation in the room for something to be done. There were discussions of the necessity to bring back the Neighborhood Watch (NW) program, possibly placing security camera at all our entrance ways, and other well-intended but somewhat impossible goals. A lot has happened since then. Our country has a new President; the Global War on Terrorism has shifted focus to Afghanistan, and our national and local economy has suffered a significant decline. However, within our community we've really done nothing --we remain vulnerable through our inactivity, our indifference and our negligence. Let me tell you why I've agreed to organize and lead a Neighborhood Watch program in Ravensworth and several other initiatives.

As the new Neighborhood Watch (NW) coordinator, I have spent the past few weeks on an uncomfortable journey learning the extent of our complacency. The depths

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RFCA Community Activities

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, January 28, 2010, 7:30PM
Ravensworth Elementary School

Topic:

The Taste of Ravensworth Shopping Center
Neighborhood Watch

See Pg. 6 for details

Information Wanted:

Seeking anyone who has information about a vehicle accident on the corner of Queensberry and Ellet. A gold BMW was damaged on Monday or Tuesday after the December snow storm by a red car. If you know anything, please call 703-891-3610.

We're online:

www.ravensworthfarm.org

Article I, Section 3, of the Civic Association's By-Laws provides that the Association shall be strictly non-partisan, non-political, and non-sectarian. Accordingly, the invitation of elected officials and other public figures to speak at Association meetings, and the inclusion of paid political or commercial advertisements in the Farmer or in the attached flyers, do not constitute endorsements by the Association.

RAVENSWORTH FARM CIVIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Steve Price	703-321-8711
1st Vice President	Ellen Eggerton	703-321-4948
2nd Vice President	Dean Fix	703-321-3048
Recording Secretary	Katherine Craig	703-321-3149
Corresponding Secretary	Hans Jansen	703-321-4919
Treasurer	Richmon Tun	703-321-1404

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative & County Affairs	Ruth Orem	703-321-8061
Public Service (Streets & Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-321-9668
Schools & Education	Anita Bhatnagar	703-942-6806
Green Committee	Jim Hickey Hans Jansen	703-321-8535 703-321-4919
Membership & Communications	Elissa Myers	703-321-7590
Zoning Committee	Ellen Eggerton Stan Orndorff	703-321-4948 703-321-7990

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee	Katherine Craig Marti Terry	703-321-3149 703-209-4424
Hospitality	Ruth Hartman Ramona Michels	703-321-8063 703-321-7664
New Neighbors	Melanie Bennett Amy Reynolds	571-282-3291 703-321-7317
Cultural Committee		
Vietnamese	Tam Nguyen	703-321-8338
Spanish	Dinora Gonzalez	703-321-0160
Korean	Monica Kim	703-321-0338
German & Russian	Ifira Reynolds	703-321-8383
Arabic	Joumana Al-Naji	703-321-8002
Directory	Coordinator Advertising	Stephen Beste Steve Price
		703-321-9110 571-641-9284
Farmer	Editor Preparation Printing, Flyers, Assembly Distribution	Kathleen Powers Susan Deyampert Laura Asiello Dean Fix
		703-321-7523 703-321-3150 703-321-7840 703-321-3048
Neighborhood Watch	Tom Mathis	703-321-2785
PTA President, Ravensworth Elementary	George H Brodie	703-426-3600
Pool President	Amy Reynolds	703-321-7313
Green Thumb Garden Club	Laura Asiello	703-321-7840
Golden Ravens	Martha Sargent	703-321-9143

Association Calendar 2009 - 2010

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT <i>Farmer</i>	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
January	6	6	8	14	23	28
February	3	3	5	11	20	
March	3	3	5	12	20	25
April	7	7	9	16	24	
May	5	5	7	14	22	27

Membership or Board Meetings are canceled in the event of Fairfax County Public School's early closing or school cancellation.

Con't from Pg. 1

of our neglect hit home during a recent meeting of the West Springfield Station Police Citizen's Advisory Committee. Members of the surrounding communities, who were well represented, brought up the issue on the status of the Triple Homicide. I had no idea there even was a Police Citizen's Advisory Committee until J.T., our Police Liaison, recommended I participate in order to better understand how communities interact with the local police force. I learned quite a bit that night to include that we've had an absent presence for quite some time. It was uncomfortable to learn that the surrounding communities have annually participated in this committee and helped pay tribute to the great efforts of the West Springfield Police. Other communities have contributed to the police fund to recognize outstanding efforts by the staff and recently invested and participated in a party for the officers on duty during the holidays that were away from their families protecting ours. As these great initiatives were discussed, to include the recent budget cuts in the police force and the pending future budget cuts- I couldn't help but wonder what have we done to thank those who serve in our regard?

The point of this letter is not to chastise our community, but to identify a problem so that we can do something about it. I'm not pointing any fingers--because what I see in many of us, I see first in myself. I hung out in the peanut gallery waiting for someone else to step forward and do something on my behalf. I have lived in Ravensworth for almost a decade. During this time I enjoyed the great parks, the cycling opportunities, my great commute and the pool. I thought I was a good resident because I paid my taxes, took care of my yard and looked out for my interests and some of the folks adjacent to me. Last year I seriously considered moving--but we realized that this was our home and the seeds of realizing my personal neglect in serving our common interest were sown. This drove my decision to volunteer and help us be a stronger community; a community that is more vested in enhancing our quality of life.

The Neighborhood Watch (NW) program is a great place to start because it serves a critical need and more. NW watch isn't just simply a bunch of retired folks trolling our streets in bright orange hats--it is an indicator of the health and vitality of the community. A strong program is sustained by a strong community--that is why many NW initiatives fail within the first 18 months.

So, this is the time for all of us to awaken and work together. This initiative could not be more critical--the downturn of the economy is a key ingredient to increased crime. The strong NW programs around us encourage more

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crime in our community just because of our relative complacency. I also agreed I would only take this job if I could also organize a Community Crisis and/or Emergency Response Committee. FEMA outlines all households should be self-sustainable for up to 72 hours in crisis. We just had a situation where a recent snow storm made it difficult for Emergency Services to help those in need for several days. What happens if someone's home burns down? Or someone gets injured or hurt blocks away from home? Worse, what do we do if we find one of our loved ones or children missing or lost?

We are fortunate to have a Civic Association that is a healthy, active association with the budget to enable our NW program. Sometimes, however, we have not had a clear and definitive process to identify and collectively agree on what to do with that budget. In that regard, I have offered the Board my professional experience to define and manage a proposal process and help align a budget along a community road map.

I know that I have not done much for our community these past years- but I also know what I can and will do in the future. If other folks just step forward and assist in whatever ways you can – these efforts will succeed.

To start this new journey--and I promise it will be both fun and fulfilling--please make an effort to participate in the upcoming community meeting on Thursday, January 28. I will outline how you can do a little something that will have a big impact across our neighborhood.

Tom Mathis, Mathis.mt@gmail.com, 703-321-7187

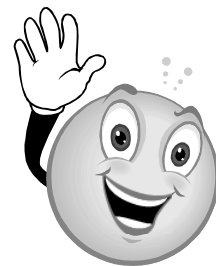
BLOCK CAPTAINS URGENTLY NEEDED!

Many streets still need block captains to collect Civic Association dues. If you could spare one or two hours to canvass a block, please contact Elissa Myers at 703-321-2828. This is a great way to meet people in the neighborhood—especially those on streets other than your own.

SPOT A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Speaking of Nice Neighbors—

- There's the gentleman who regularly picks up his senior citizen neighbor's newspapers from the bottom of a sloping driveway and delivers them to the front door;
- And the neighbors who, after the Big Snow, sent a prepaid trio to clear a senior's driveway;
- And the neighbors who helped dig out cars and driveways;
- And the gentleman who walks around the neighborhood with dog bones in his pocket for all his furry friends;
- And those who always look out after their neighbor's homes and pick up the mail when they're away traveling.



Have YOU spotted a good neighbor lately? Then contact the editor: Kathleen@ravensworthfarm.org or call 703-321-7523. Let's share the good things we do for each other!

GARDEN CLUB STAYS BUSY AS BEES!

Join the Green Thumb Garden Club this February on Wednesday, February 3rd at 9:30 am at the home of Ursula Schuttinga. We will be learning about how to encourage bees to visit and pollinate our gardens.

We always welcome new members! Call Laura Asciglio with questions. 703-321-7840

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH THE GOLDEN RAVENS

Happy New Year to all! Here's a new year's resolution for you: join the Golden Ravens for lunch and enjoy the warmth of our friendship on these cold winter days! Since the weather in January and February can be unpredictable, we will plan to eat out at restaurants both months. Consider coming with us to Brion's Grille in January and the Silverado Restaurant in February. Mark your 2010 calendars for:

Wed. Jan. 27	Brion's Grille	11:15 am
Wed. Feb. 24	Silverado	11:15 am

We'll meet at the church at the 11:15, if you need a ride. All others may choose to meet us at the restaurants. For suggestions, comments or questions, please call Martha & Dick Sargent at 703-321-9143 or Ruth Miller at 703-321-7477.

WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND STAGES ARE INVITED TO COME TO FABULOUS FRIDAY!



A women's social with: food, fun, intentional conversation, special guests, games, and door prizes!

This is our 4th year — Comments from last year "I'm so glad we are doing this", "great to know more neighbors", "I had no idea you lived right up the street from me!"

Ravensworth Farm is known for having a good community! We believe Fabulous Friday is part of building and keeping our community strong. Come by for one or all of the meetings.

Meetings are the First Friday of the month (except for Jan. & April):

Feb. 5, March 5, April 9, May 7 & June 4

7:30PM – 9:30PM, 7938 Ellet Road (The home of Anita Aberle)

Contact: 703-321-3379, aaberle@netzero.net or Erin Coelho at 703-321-4878 for more information or to sign up for our e-vite reminder.

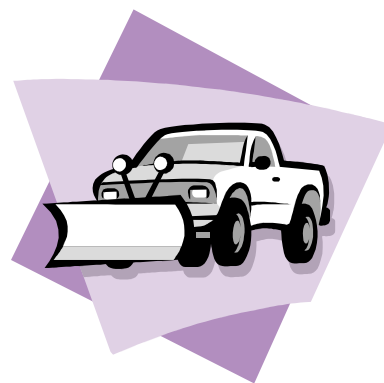
SNOW REMOVAL

Snow Removal questions/concerns should be directed to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) at 703-383-8368. VDOT is responsible for plowing the public roads (interstate, primary, secondary, residential) in Fairfax County. Clearing is done on a priority basis, with interstates and high volume roads cleared first.

Tom Terry, 703-321-9668, is the head of the Public Service (street and sidewalks) Committee for Ravensworth Farm Civic Association.

For a list of frequently asked questions about snow removal in Fairfax, see this website:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/snowremoval.htm>



Civic Association Meeting

Thursday, January 28 at 7:30PM
Ravensworth Elementary School

Program:

The Many Flavors of Ravensworth Shopping Center

You've heard the rumors—now get the answers!
Find out what's really going on at the shopping center.
The owner of Ravensworth Shopping Center will speak to us about
plans for the shopping center and what we can expect in the future.
Several merchants will provide samples for us to taste.

Neighborhood Watch

Plus, Tom Mathis will outline his plan for our new
Neighborhood Watch program.

**Join your neighbors for an interesting,
Informative and important meeting!**

ELECTRIC SUNDAYS

Recycle old TVs, computers and electronic devices for free! Note these upcoming dates and locations:

- Feb. 28 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax
- March 28 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton
- April 25 - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax

For more information, call 703-324-5052 or visit this website:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/calendar.htm>

OUR 31ST ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE IS RETURNING!

The 31th Annual Community Yard Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2010. So start saving those items you want to dispose of as you clean out closets and attics. For more information contact Ellen Eggerton at 703-321-4948.

RAVENSWORTH'S TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2010, 8:00 - 11:45 A.M.

The Civic Association has arranged for the Fairfax County trash disposal trucks to be parked at the Ravensworth Elementary School parking lot on Saturday, March 13th, from 8:00 - 11:45 a.m., for collecting items that are not accepted by private contractors at curbside.

Items accepted: Doors, furniture, swing sets, mattresses, lawn mowers (drained of oil, please), boards, piping, washing machines, dryers, and other appliances.

Items NOT accepted: Hazardous waste (paint, oil, etc.), brush, newspapers, tires, glass, styrofoam, sheetrock, stones, and crushed rock.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Thanks to all of you who decorated your homes for the holiday season. Ravensworth was filled with bright lights, wreaths, trees, reindeers, Santa and so much more. Did you see Santa's Runway on Moultrie? Or the cute Scottie dogs worshipping at the manger scene on Gosport? Here are the winners of this year's holiday decorations:

Winners:

Overall	5222 Landgrave
Religious	8105 Gosport
Window & Door	8006 Gosport
Kids Choice	5633 Inverchapel

Honorable Mention: 5671 Ravenel Lane
5616 Rathbone Court, 5504 Ravenel Lane



NEW COMMUNITY SERVICE – OUR VERY OWN "RAVEN'S LIST"

Thank you for the recent contributions to “Raven’s List”, keep the suggestions coming!

Let's create our very own version of "Angie's List" right here in Ravensworth Farm. We all need good recommendations for services. Have you had a good experience with a plumber, a contractor, or a handyman? How about an electrician, cleaning service, dog walker, or pest removal company? If so, tell your neighbors about it. Don't forget to recommend snow removal and lawn care, too! Please go to the Ravensworth Farm website, click the **Feedback** button (top, right-hand side) and submit your recommendations to our webmaster. In the future, you might see our "Raven's List" as a useful feature on our website.

WORKSHOPS FOR ENTREPRENEURS IN 2010

Fairfax County offers monthly workshops for those persons that are interested in starting a business in the area. Highlights of the workshop will include start-up information (licenses and permits), Virginia Department of Business Assistance workforce service programs and training information, and an overview of the U.S. Small Business Administration's resources (financing and certification).

The workshops will be held the first Tuesday of each month. There is no cost to attend the workshops however pre-registration is required. The workshop schedule is at <http://www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/pressrelease/fceda-starting-business-workshops-continue>

In addition to the “Doing Business in Fairfax County” workshops, FCEDA (Fairfax County Economic Development Authority) will provide business counseling services through an arrangement with the Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE), a U.S. Small Business Administration initiative. A SCORE counselor will be available the first Friday of every month at the FCEDA office in Vienna, Virginia. You must schedule an appointment in order to meet with a score representative.

For more information, to register for the workshop or to schedule an appointment with a SCORE counselor please call (703) 790-0600 or email – info@fceda.org

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency

Police, Fire, Ambulance: 9-1-1, TTY 911

Non-emergency

703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2264

Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line

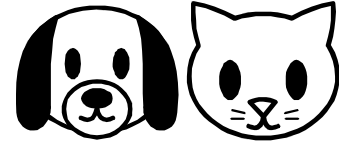
703-817-7771, TTY 711

Poison Control

1-800-222-1222, TTY 711



PET SAFETY -- WINTER PREPAREDNESS TIPS



Pets should be kept indoors during winter months.

If a pet is outdoors, by law, it must be provided with shelter. The pet's house should be elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation and have a door of some kind to keep out winter winds, sleet and snow. Shelters should be insulated or heated. In severely cold or inclement weather, no pet should be kept outside.

Indoor pets should have sleeping quarters in a draft-free, warm area with their bed or mattress elevated slightly off the floor. For bedding, use hay or other non-absorbent materials that will remain dry during inclement weather.

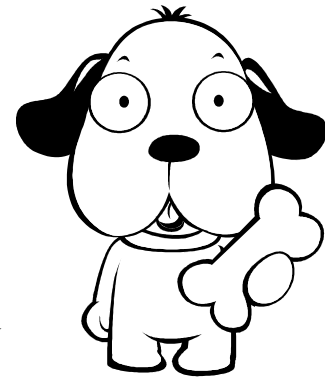
Other tips to keep pets safe include:

- Don't let dogs off their leash or they may get lost and suffer from cold-weather related problems.
- Snow and salt should be removed from pets' paws immediately to avoid burning the paw pads. Use a pet-safe de-icing salt.
- Frostbitten skin is red or gray. Apply warm, moist towels to thaw out frostbitten areas slowly until the skin appears flushed. Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for further care.
- Outdoor pets require extra calories to keep warm so feed your pet a little more during cold winter months.
- Be sure your pet's water doesn't freeze while outdoors by using a heated water source.
- Cats, house pets and wildlife may climb onto vehicle engines for warmth during cold weather. Be sure to check under the hood before starting your vehicle and honk the horn to startle any animals seeking shelter inside.

Source: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/winter/pet-safety.htm>

DOG LICENSES

All dogs four months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are good for one year and must be purchased by January 31st.



- License Fees: The fee to purchase a 2010 dog license is now \$10, for all dogs.
- License tags are issued free of charge to the owners of dogs trained and serving as a guide dog for a blind person, a hearing dog for a deaf person, or a service dog for a mobility-impaired person.
- License tags may be purchased by mail, on-line or in person, as follows:
 - **By Mail:** Send a completed copy of the Dog License Application, a check payable to the County of Fairfax, and a current certificate of rabies vaccination to the County of Fairfax, Department of Tax Administration, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 223, Fairfax, VA 22035.
 - **On Line (Renewals Only)** - Rabies vaccination date must be current to purchase a dog license.
 - **In Person:** Bring a completed copy of the Dog License Application, a check payable to the County of Fairfax, and a current certificate of rabies vaccination, to one of the following locations:
 - The Department of Tax Administration at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 223, Fairfax between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays (8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays) or

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- The Animal Shelter at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax between noon and 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday or Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- Those who have bought tags in prior years will automatically receive application forms in the mail in October.
- For questions regarding license fees, call 703-222-8234 [TTY: 703-222-7594].

Source: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/dog_licenses.htm

STORM DRAINS

Residents and businesses can help alleviate potential flooding and protect the environment this winter season by keeping the openings of storm drains clear of snow and debris. Simple steps include:

- Remove snow and debris, such as leaves, grass clippings and trash from the outside openings of storm drains.
- Avoid piling snow in front of a storm drain.
- Avoid blowing leaves and cut grass into the street, which may travel to a storm drain in rain and melted snow.
- Be sure to read labels to avoid overuse and misuse of fertilizer; properly maintain cars to prevent oil leaks; and pick up pet waste and dispose of it in a trash can. These pollutants may be collected by rain and melted snow and travel to storm drains, which lead to streams, or in some cases, first to a storm-water management facility and then a stream

If a storm drain opening is blocked, residents can remove the debris from the outside opening. At no time, however, should a resident attempt to enter a storm drain to remove debris.

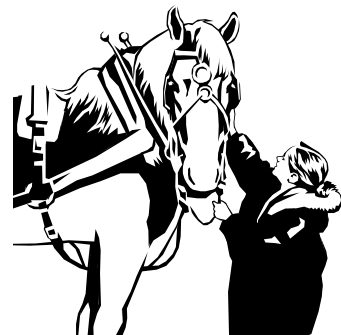
To report a blocked storm drain, call Fairfax County Stormwater Management, 703-877-2800, TTY 711, or the Virginia Department of Transportation at 703-383-8368, TTY 711.

Property owners, however, are responsible for driveway culverts and bridges that are part of the driveway structure and are not public storm drainage system structures. Storm drains outside rights-of-way and easements are privately maintained by the property owner..

For more information about storm drainage and stormwater facilities, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/stormdrainage.htm. For more information about protecting and restoring streams, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater.

FREE HAYRIDE FOR CHILDREN

The annual hayride for children on the Belgian draft horses has been rescheduled. The snow storm cancelled our holiday hayride scheduled in December. But we are rescheduling this unique experience for February 7th from 5am to 7am.



WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

8105 Hatteras
Brian & Lisa Polen & Family

5308 Old Castle
Soonyoung Kim

7918 Hatteras
Carol & Keller Russell & Family

5220 Queensberry
Greg & Nicole Ferrara & Family



When a new neighbor moves in on your street, please call Melanie Bennett at 571-282-3291 or email melanieannebennett@gmail.com.

HOSPITALITY

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ty Simpson of Hatteras Lane who died on Christmas day.



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in the *Farmer* at no cost to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Classified ads must be mailed to: The Ravensworth *Farmer*, P.O. Box 1020, Springfield, VA 22151. This classified ads section is a service to Ravensworth residents, and is not intended for business or commercial use. Accordingly, we will run ads for house sales, commercial services, etc. in this section once; if the advertiser wishes to repeat them, he/she must shift them to the paid ad category.

FOR SALE	1 pair ladies knee-high black suede boots, 2 ½ inch heel, size 7 M—worn once. \$25 1 pair ladies knee-high beige leather boots, 2 ½ inch heel, size 7 M—never worn. \$25 1 pair new “Doggie” slippers, ladies small, size 5-6. \$10 Call (703) 321-7454, 8 am to 10 pm.
FOR SALE	Hardback copies of the classics \$1 each. (Aristotle, Swift, Shakespeare, Scott, Austen, Eliot, Dickens, Barrie, Stevenson, Balzac, Browning, Plato, Montaigne). 703-321-7871
SERVICE	Piano/Voice Lessons: Fairfax County elementary music teacher. Graduate of James Madison University. Teaching all levels in home studio at 5607 Sedgwick Lane. \$16 per half hour lesson. Call Ashton Strearig at 717-781-5411 or email streavae@gmail.com
BABYSITTING SERVICE	Hannah Flaherty, a 17 year old senior at Annandale High School and Ravensworth resident, is available for reliable babysitting services. She has 5 years of babysitting experience and own transportation. For more information, please call 703-965-6145 (please leave message.)
WANTED	Players for a BEGINNING level bridge group; Call Kathleen at 703-321-7523.
WANTED	Good used furniture for needy low income families in the Annandale area. Needed are beds, dressers, kitchen tables and chairs, sofas, end tables, lamps, kitchen utensils, dishes and pans. Call Bill Sinclair at 703-321-7529 or the ACCA warehouse 703-256-1991. Call the warehouse on Saturday mornings only.

SPRINGFIELD
Community of Christ



**Experience a Ravensworth community
church where all are welcome.**

5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, VA

(703) 321-0507 (Church) • **(703) 313-8254** (Pastor)

Sunday Services:

9:30 a.m. Church School for all ages

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Please join us for these Community Activities:

NEW! Children's Playground
Ravensworth Golden Ravens
Ravensworth Community Picnic
Holiday Caroling in the Neighborhood

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.

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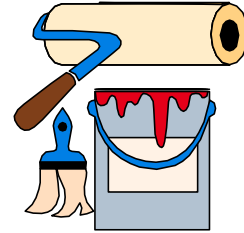


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Deck Cleaning & Sealing

Power Washing

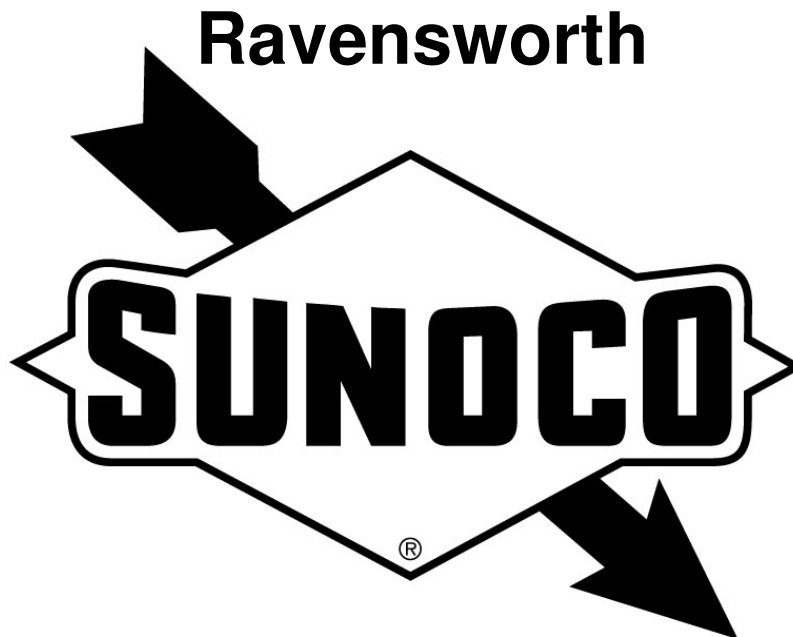
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Busy Buddies Provides:

- Trusted resources
- Expert, practical moving advice
- An organized simplified move
- Start to finish move coordination
- Unpacking / settling new home
- Support and guidance
- Hands on physical labor
- Floor plan arrangement
- Chaos-free downsizing

You Reduce:

- Stress, time, effort and novice frustrations
- Lost productivity and vacation days
- Disruption of family routine

Unpacking and Settling Service:

We'll get your new home up and running in a day (Make bed, hang shower curtain, put soup away).

Estate dispersal / house clearing service.

Decide what you want, we'll do the rest.

Remodeling, painting, carpeting?

We'll pack it up and put it back.

****Always seeking quality part-time staff.****

Call your neighbors (5318 Inverchapel) we can help.



*INNOVATION IN DESIGN . . .
ATTENTION TO DETAIL*

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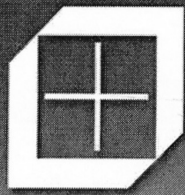
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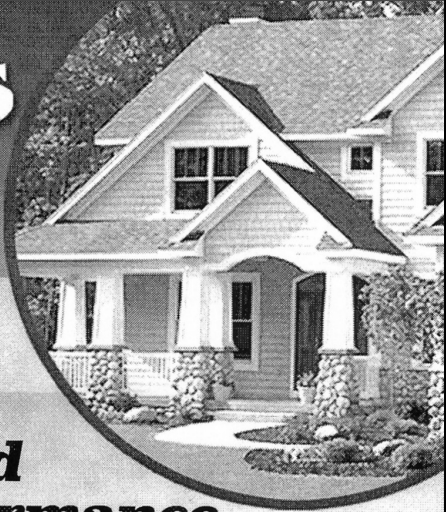
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