



MANDR HOUSE 1796-1925
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

March 2012

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

VOL. XLVII Issue 7

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Neighbors:

The month of March began with a beautiful warm day, the one of many we've experienced this winter. It looks as though this will go down as one of the mildest winters in a long time. As I look around Ravensworth, I see tulips, daffodils and crocuses in full bloom... and I am praying March does not surprise us with a spring snow-storm.

On another note, at our recent RFCA board meeting we were lamenting the lack of volunteers to step up and fill some of the vacant positions we have advertised. I can assure you that there is no heavy lifting involved, just a couple of hours a month covers it. The Halloween Parade; the Hay Ride; the Yard Sale--these are just a few of the community events we sponsor. Plus, we desperately need volunteers to help with the New Neighbors Committee and we're looking for a new editor of the Farmer.

I am finishing up my second year as president and I am asking for a few folks to throw their hat into the ring and volunteer. It has been a great way to meet new friends and to give back something to the community. Our neighborhood is a beautiful one—and not just the flowers -- the people make it a great place to live.

Con't Pg. 3

DEADLINE FOR APRIL FARMER

The deadline for ALL Farmer submissions for the next issue is **Wednesday, April 4. No exceptions!** This is in the middle of spring break for FCPS students. So, if possible, please submit your items early. **NO LATE ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Inside:

Yard Sale, Pg. 4

March Meeting, Pg. 5

**Lake Accotink Staffing Issues,
Pg. 7-9**

**Join us on Facebook
(check the website for details):**

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	Marty Robinson	703-297-7255
1st Vice President	Ellen Eggerton	703-321-4948
2nd Vice President	Jacqueline Fix	703-321-3048
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151
Corresponding Secretary	Kevin Joyce	703-587-7989
Treasurer	Richmon Tun	703-321-1404

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative & County Affairs	Vacant	
Public Service (Streets & Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-209-2675
Schools & Education	Anita Bhatnagar	703-942-6806
Green Committee	Jim Hickey	703-321-8535
Membership & Communications	Elissa Myers	703-321-7590
Zoning Committee	Ellen Eggerton	703-321-4948

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee	Marti Terry	703-209-4424
	Brenda Soares	703-321-7856
	Margaret Kinder	703-764-9576
Hospitality	Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063
	Ramona Michels	703-321-7664
New Neighbors	Melanie Bennett	571-282-3291
	Donna Karlinchak	703-321-4805
	Amy Reynolds	703-321-7317
Cultural Committee		
Vietnamese	Tam Nguyen	703-321-8338
Spanish	Dinora Gonzalez	703-321-0160
Directory	Coordinator	
	Stephen Beste	703-321-9110
Farmer	Editor	Kathleen Powers
	Preparation	Susan Deyampert
	Printing, Flyers, Assembly	Laura Asiello
	Distribution	Jacqueline Fix
		703-321-7523
		703-321-3150
		703-321-7840
		703-321-3048
Neighborhood Watch	Vacant	
PTA President, Ravensworth Elementary	Joey Stengell	703-272-8647
Pool President	Rob Hannam	703-321-7398
Green Thumb Garden Club	Doddie Cave	703-321-9773
	Nancy Jarvie	703-321-8319
Golden Ravens	Joan Crofford	703-321-7809

Association Calendar 2011 - 2012

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT <i>Farmer</i>	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
March	Feb. 29	Feb. 29	2	9	24	29
April	4	4	6	9	28	
May	2	2	4	11	26	31

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

Let's not forget the local wildlife, too. Remember our March association meeting will feature a wildlife biologist who will discuss the close contact we have with wild animals and local birds. Join us on Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 pm. This is a child-friendly presentation, so think about bringing the kids, too.

Now that I am hooked on Facebook, it has proven to be a great way to keep up on neighborhood events. Tom Mathis has been doing a super job as administer and the information gleaned from the postings has been very helpful. Consider joining the Ravensworth Farm FB page just to keep up with the local news.

Lastly, the warm weather brings out children playing, dog walking and neighbors running. Please slow down as you drive through the streets of Ravensworth Farm to keep everyone safe.

Marty Robinson, RFCA President
 prez@ravensworthfarm.org

DIRECTORIES! DUES! AND MORE...

The Ravensworth Farm block captains have completed the annual membership drive but were unable to reach a number of residents. Many residents weren't home or didn't receive messages left by the block captains. If you were one of them and want to renew your membership in the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association (or join for the first time) please send \$10.00 to Elissa Myers at:

5315 Moultrie Road
 Springfield, Virginia 22151

Please make checks payable to **RFCA** and include your **name, address, and phone number**. If you're uncomfortable or unsure about mailing your membership dues Elissa is happy to take your call or email. She can be reached at 703-321-7590 and elissa@elissamyers.com.

Membership is required to vote on civic association matters, plus you get the updated 2012 Directory! Dues also fund the upkeep of the common grounds (front entrances), community signs, and support the annual Kids' Fall Halloween party and Spring Hay Ride.

GOLDEN RAVENS—SHARING THE PLANET

You may have noticed that we share the space called Ravensworth Farm with numerous forms of life including birds, snakes, squirrels, red fox, and occasional deer among others. NASA photos show that all this is invisible from the orbiting space station – but each life form must be indispensable even though maybe insignificant. Golden Ravens gather on the fourth Wednesday for monthly luncheons at the Community of Christ Church – no affiliation – with thankfulness that we are permitted to share this area with the other creatures and appreciation for their hospitality. If you are a senior neighbor, come help prove that “birds of a feather flock together.” Call Joan Crofford for details at 703-321-7809.

SHOPPING CENTER NEWS

A new barber shop replaces the old beauty salon.

Here's their information:

Family Barbershop
703-992-0016
Hours: M-F 9:00 – 7:00; Sat. 9:00 – 6:00; Sun. 10:00 – 5:00 pm.



33RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY YARD SALE

The Ravensworth Farm Community Yard Sale is on Saturday, May 5, 2012, starting at 8AM at the Ravensworth Farm Swim and Racquet Club Parking Lot.

The Rain Date for the Yard Sale is Saturday, May 12, 2012

This is an opportunity for residents of Ravensworth Farm to sell some of your family goods and make some cash. The sale of goods is open to all community families, and **NO pre-registration** is required. Set up will start at 7:30 a.m. so come early to claim your family's spot.

Garden Club will conduct their annual plant sale at the yard sale this year.

Boy Scout Troop 991 will be available at 7:30 a.m. to help families unload their vehicles and during the yard sale to help as needed. The Boy Scouts will help any residents who need help loading their vehicles at their homes prior to the yard sale on May 13th. If you need help please contact Suzie Eggleston at 703-321-2070 to set up a time.

The Boy Scouts will also be manning a concession stand during the yard sale.

Any questions, please visit the RFCA website for additional details.



MARCH MEETING

Mark your calendars! The wildlife biologist is coming to our March Association meeting!
(We tried to host her last year, but due to a personal emergency, she was unable to attend.)



DATE:
THURSDAY, MARCH 29

TIME:
7:30 PM



PLACE:
RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Learn about local birds and wildlife. She will discuss how to respond and handle wild animals in our yards.
Please plan to bring your children, as her presentation is child-friendly. See you then.

FARMERS' MARKET COMING TO DOWNTOWN SPRINGFIELD

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is working with Smart Markets, Inc. to bring a farmers' market to Central Springfield. The market will be held at American Legion Post 176.

Smart Markets was established in 2008 to provide well-managed, farmers' markets in Northern Virginia.

When you shop at a farmers' market, you are supporting local farmers, preserving small farms, and promoting sustainable agriculture. You are buying real food that is actually healthy for you, your family, the economy, and the environment, both locally and globally.

The Central Springfield farmers' market will be open Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm beginning this spring. The American Legion is located at 6520 Amherst Avenue next to Springfield Toyota. For more information visit Smart Markets at www.smartmarkets.org.

SERVICE EXPO HIGHLIGHTS VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer Opportunities: The public is invited to a "Service Expo" which will be held on Saturday, April 14, 2012 from 9:30am – 1:00pm at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 3900 Howard Street, Annandale, VA 22003. Representatives from 20 different community agencies will be available to talk about their services and volunteer opportunities. Various service projects will also be going on and a light lunch will be served. For more information contact Lexie Staton at 703-978-2475 or staton7@verizon.net.

SUPPORT LOCAL SEEDLING SALE

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District

2012 Native Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale

Incredible Edibles for Humans and Wildlife

Many of our native shrubs and trees have been in use for centuries by humans, as well as providing habitat benefits for wildlife. This year's seedling sale features native species that have fruits, berries, nuts, leaves or roots you can eat or use yourself and that birds and other wildlife will find delicious. Enjoy!

Two Packages, Back By Popular Demand! Order Now!

10 Bare-root Shrubs & Small Trees \$15.95

- 4 **American Hazelnut.** Multi-stemmed shrub valued for its distinctive catkins, copper-red to yellow fall color, edible nuts and naturalistic form. Ideal for dry sites with poor soil. Prefers partial shade. 10-15 feet.
- 2 **Elderberry.** Large heads of fragrant white flowers in mid-summer are followed by clusters of deep purple or black berries, edible for humans and at least 48 species of birds! Flourishes in shade or sun, tolerates dry or wet sites. 6-12 feet. Great rain garden plant!
- 2 **Serviceberry's** attractive white flowers are among the first to bloom in early spring. Berry-like summer fruits are a food source for songbirds and edible for us! Prefers moist and sun to part-shade conditions. Height 25 to 30 feet, fast-growing shrubby structure.
- 2 **Cranberrybush Viburnum.** Grows 8-12 feet with white clusters of flowers in May. Bright red berries can be used to make jelly, and provide food for birds through the winter. Good wetland plant.

7 Bare-root Trees for \$11.95

- 2 **American Plum.** Bright red, one-inch plums provide excellent food for wildlife. Fruit is eaten fresh and processed as preserves and jellies. Grows best on rich, moist bottomland soils. Small tree: up to 30-35 feet.
 - 2 **Persimmon.** Deciduous tree, slow grower. Typically 20-40 feet in height, up to 75 feet in moist sites. Distinctive bark, fragrant white flowers in spring. Edible orange fruits on female plants ripen in late fall and attract wildlife! Sun to partial shade.
 - 2 **Chokecherry** fruits, turning from red to dark purple, were frequently used by Native Americans. Great for jams and jellies! Chokecherry provides excellent food and shelter for wildlife. Fast growing to 20-30 ft.
- Bonus!** 1 **Allegheny Chinkapin** is the closest native relative of the American Chestnut. Chinkapin nuts are smaller but just as sweet! Mature size 15-30 feet. Often forms thickets and is generally found in drier soils.

To see images and scientific names for this year's plants, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm

A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order by **Monday, April 16, 2012**, or until supplies run out. You will receive a confirmation receipt and a map to the pickup site (in Fairfax County, off of Braddock Road, two miles outside the Beltway). Orders may be picked up on **Friday, April 20, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**, or **Saturday, April 21, 9:00 a.m.-noon.**

2012 Seedling Order Form

Name: _____ **Make your check payable to NVSWCD and mail it to:**

Address: _____ **NVSWCD Seedling Sale**

City/State/Zip: _____ **12055 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 905**

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax (if available): _____ **Fairfax, VA 22035**

E-mail: _____ **Where did you hear about the seedling sale?**

_____ **Tree Package(s) @ \$11.95 each** _____ **Shrub & Small Tree Package(s) @ \$15.95 each**

Total \$ _____ **(Sales tax is included in all listed prices)**

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District's annual seedling sale makes low-cost native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents. Seedling packages are on sale now. Order before Monday, April 16 2012, or until supplies run out. Native trees and shrubs help cleanse water, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, cool our climate and clean our air. Consider adding native trees and shrubs to your yard today!

For more information, see the enclosed flyer or go to this web site about Native Plants:
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>

LOCAL ROAD NUMBERS TO CHANGE!

The 32-mile Fairfax County Parkway/Route 7100 will be renamed Route 286. The Virginia Department of Transportation will put up signs that call the road "Old Route 7100."

The Franconia-Springfield Parkway/Route 7900 becomes Route 289. Signage will say "Old Route 7900."

The 16-mile Prince William Parkway/Route 3000 changes to Route 294 or "Old Route 3000."

The signs will be replaced over the next three months. VDOT says drivers will see the old route number alongside the new route number for about a year in order for hotels, businesses and map companies to have enough time to update their materials.

The renaming of these roads is part of a move to convert secondary roads into primary roads. This means they may be eligible for new funding and maintenance priorities. Primary roads are able to receive federal funding for paving, guardrail and bridge improvements, along with other projects.

TRAINING CENTER TO CLOSE

The Northern Virginia Training Center, located on Braddock Road, will close by June 2015. The Training Center is one of five regional centers that is home to approximately 200 significantly intellectually and developmentally disabled residents. These residents require full-time care for many life functions, including eating, bathing, and sometimes even basic physical movements. This closure is based upon a Supreme Court decision which states that institutionalization of the intellectually and developmentally disabled violates those residents' civil rights by keeping them permanently segregated from non-disabled neighbors.

The training center consists of twelve buildings on about 88 acres of land. Its closure presents a challenge both to the state, which runs the Center, and to the residents and their families. The settlement agreement requires current residents be placed in community-based group homes.

Supervisor Cook is currently working with state and local officials regarding the options for future uses of this campus.

For more information, see
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/newsletter/february2012/letterfromsupervisorcook.htm>

MORE INFORMATION ON LAKE ACCOTINK STAFFING ISSUES

We addressed this problem in the last issue of the Farmer. Here is more information:

Lake Accotink was one of three lakefront parks which were de-staffed this winter from Jan. 23rd to mid-March! Did you know that? Were you asked to share your concerns and thoughts before the decision was made and implemented? No! Surrounding communities and park users, who are impacted the most, were not given the opportunity for input before this decision was made.

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) transferred permanent staff to Rec-centers because the Rec-centers generate more revenue.

Con't from Pg. 7

Millions of Fairfax County taxpayer dollars have been poured into Lake Accotink over the years in the form of park bonds. Our tax dollars. Because of the de-staffing, the park improvements our dollars have paid for are not being consistently monitored. Who is there to be vigilant about environmental, safety and liability issues? The park office is closed. A maintenance person is in the park periodically thanks to citizen outcry, but that is not enough. Our park is just as important as a Rec-center. A safe park is important to everyone!

How many months will the Park Authority de-staff the park next year? If de-staffing continues year-to-year we could see a decline that will affect not only Lake Accotink Park, but also the value of the homes and neighborhoods around it.

Let's not let this happen again! If you object to the de-staffing of Lake Accotink Park, please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardfeedback.htm> and make your voice heard to the Park Authority Board. The Lake is bordered by three supervisory districts. We can let all of the Park Authority Board members know our concerns, regardless of the district the Board member represents. Let all of the Board members know we want our park's visitor center open and permanent staff kept at Lake Accotink throughout the year.

In addition you can call the Park Authority's General Information number at (703) 324-8716.

You can also contact your Fairfax County Supervisor:

Lee District (Jeff McKay): leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov
Braddock District (John Cook): braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov
Springfield District (Pat Herry): springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov

Take some action! Lake Accotink Park and its reputation are too valuable to the revitalization of the Greater Springfield area to leave unattended.

PARK RESPONSE TO STAFFING CONCERN

This is in response to a letter written on behalf of the RFCA board regarding staffing cutbacks at the lake.

Per your request I've provided an overview of the operations at Lake Accotink for January 23 – March 19. The following measures are being implemented to ensure a quality experience continues for Lake Accotink Park patrons:

- A FCPA park operations staff is on-site at Accotink Monday - Friday from 7 AM – 3 PM. This staff member opens the gates at the park Monday – Friday.
- The Park gates are closed and a check of the park is conducted M-F at 6:30 PM.
- The Park gates are opened at 7 AM and closed at 6:30 PM on Saturday and Sundays. A park monitor checks the parks throughout the day but does not remain on-site for the duration of the day.
- Signs are posted at the park office providing patrons with a number to call for emergency and non-emergency concerns.
- The local police stations have been notified of the change and asked to increase their patrols.
- Park staff will continue to facilitate scheduled programs and classes at the park.

In these lean times, the Park Authority is challenged to find alternative approaches to operations that result in cost savings, but allow the public to continue to enjoy the many amenities at our facilities. The Park Authority is committed to maintaining the high quality park experience the public deserves.

Con't Pg. 9

Con't from Pg. 8

Park staff will continually evaluate the park, if at any point it is determined the park is unsafe, staff will take the appropriate actions to rectify the situation.

Please contact me if you have further questions or would like to bring concerns to my attention.

Thank you,
Sara Baldwin
Deputy Director/COO
Fairfax County Park Authority
703-324-8610

THE RFCA WANTS YOU! - TWO POSITIONS AVAILABLE

EDITOR FOR THE FARMER

The current editor of the Farmer is retiring from both her regular job and the Farmer, too. Can you step in and fill this position? A small stipend is available. The editor:

- Collects data from community groups, clubs and committees
- Proofreads and edits community information
- Attends a monthly board meeting
- Writes short articles based on the meeting
- Sends a master file of information to the formatter
- Develops the annual schedule for formatting, printing and delivery of the Farmer
- Works with RFCA Board to produce annual schedule of events for community
- Answers questions by email and phone regarding Farmer information



If interested, please contact Marty at 703-297-7255 or Kathleen at 703-321-7523.

DESPERATELY SEEKING MEMBERS FOR NEW NEIGHBORS COMMITTEE

- Looking for a few good people for the New Neighbor Committee, beginning in September 2012.
- Training provided. Be part of a team that visits newcomers to Ravensworth.
- This is a great way to be connected with the neighborhood and meet new people.
- Have a friend? Or a neighbor? Why don't you join together and help us welcome others?
- Like to walk? Get your fitness routine in and visit neighbors at the same time!
- Please, please consider helping your neighborhood!
- Contact Marty Robinson

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

7915 Hatteras
Erin & Dan Dove

8120 Drayton
Zach & Rachel Cahalan and Family

8105 Gosport
Gavin & Helen Toner/Maplesden



When a new neighbor moves in on your street, please call contact the New Neighbor Committee (pg. 2).



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	Carex Four Wheel Walker w/storage basket - excellent condition – reasonable; 5 by 8 Flowering Rose Aubusson Rug with fringe excellent condition - reasonable; 100% Wool; 3 by 5 Oriental Aubusson Rug -Bird Print 100% Wool excellent condition – reasonable. Please call: 703-321-9546
SERVICE	COMPUTER PROBLEM? Don't overspend to fix it. Free Estimate - Evening Hours - On-Site Service from Ravensworth resident. We can handle anything computer related. (267) 250 - 0594 BeltwayPC.com : http://BeltwayPC.com
WANTED	Good used furniture for needy low income families in the Annandale area. Needed are beds, dressers, kitchen tables & chairs, sofas, love seats, end tables lamps and TV's. Unfortunately, we cannot take sleep-sofas. Call Bill Sinclair at 703-321-7529 or the Annandale Christian Community for Action warehouse at 703-256-1991 Call the warehouse ONLY on Saturday mornings.

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(703) 321-0507 (church)
(703) 409-1920 (pastor)

Sunday Services:

9:30 a.m. Classes for all ages
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Please join us for these community activities:

- Children's Playground
- Picnic Area
- Ravensworth Golden Ravens
- Community Picnics and Yard Sales
- Christmas and Easter Special Activities for Everyone!

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www.cofchrist-cbmc.org**

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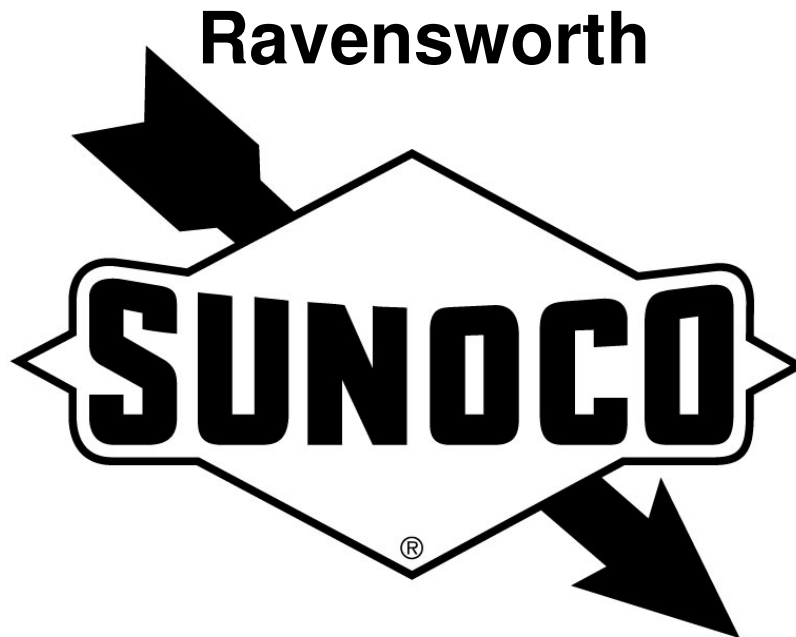
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Braddock Road & I-495**

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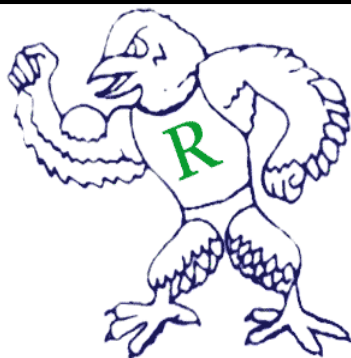
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Ping Pong Table
Tennis Courts

Join or renew online at
www.ravensworthpool.com

Swim and Dive Team registration
information located on line.

Summer Employment Opportunities

Go to the website for more information regarding the following positions: Manager, Life Guard, Snack bar.

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Ravensworth Farm Resident since 1990

FBI Agent retired January 2011

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Single session \$65.00/hr

Two person session \$85/hr

10 session package

Single session \$60.00/hr

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Single session \$55.00/hr

Two person session \$75.00/hr

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www.WindowsPls.com**

**5532 Hempstead Way
Springfield, VA 22151**



Come, and see!

Hope Lutheran Church is an inclusive and welcoming congregation, offering a variety of ways to become involved and to serve your community. Why not come and see for yourself? Join us on Sunday for:

- Classes for kids and adults - 9am
- Worship at 10am Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday
- Kids' chapel during the service
- Attended Nursery available
- Coffee and fellowship before and after the service
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