



MANOR HOUSE 1796-1925  
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA

Jan Smith

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

April 2012

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

VOL. XLVII Issue 8

### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Neighbors:

At our March 29th general membership meeting we had a presentation by Vicki Monroe, Wildlife Biologist for the Fairfax Police Department. With one of the larger crowds in recent memory in attendance, Vicki gave an informative briefing on the urban wildlife surrounding our Ravensworth Farm neighborhood.

I am sure all of us are aware of the abundance of deer and red fox that we deal with in the park (and our backyards), but there are also beavers, snakes, and even coyotes living among us. She spent a good deal of the time explaining the deer harvesting program at Lake Accotink which uses archers as the main tool to cull the herd. Vicki explained the damages to the eco-system (and to flower gardens) that the deer cause when they become overpopulated in an area and how it is necessary to manage the population.

Someone brought up the idea of a deer contraception program as an alternative to the use of archers. While Vicki said that is an option, the cost is around \$1100 per deer per season and it only has a 40% effective rate. She emphasized that she is not a hunter, nor does she view this as sport, but rather an environmentally sound method to contain an overpopulated species.

Con't Pg. 3

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Please join us for our next  
RFCA general meeting.  
This will be the last meeting of the year  
and **Election of Officers** will occur.

**When: Thursday, May 26**  
**Time: 7:30 pm**  
**Place: Elementary School Library**



**YARD SALE—DATE CHANGE!**  
**Community Yard Sale,**  
**Saturday, May 12th**



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

[www.ravensworthfarm.org](http://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
<i>Farmer</i>	Editor	Kathleen Powers	703-321-7523
	Preparation	Susan Deyampert	703-321-3150
	Printing, Flyers, Assembly	Laura Asiello	703-321-7840
	Distribution	Jacqueline Fix	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
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*

One very important take away from the presentation is that the red fox is second only to raccoons in the transmission of rabies. Although cute and fun to watch as they frolic in our backyards, **DO NOT FEED THE FOX POPULATION**. These are wild animals and our wildlife and health professionals all agree that it is a dangerous and unhealthy practice.

Once again I would encourage anyone with a desire to serve our great community to throw your hat into the ring for some of the leadership spots that are coming up for the Ravensworth Civic Association Board. Elections are coming up in May and we need some folks to step up to the plate and serve as Board positions and Committee members.

Hope to see everyone out at our annual Yard Sale and Plant Sale **now scheduled for Saturday, May 12**. This is a change of date due to a conflict with the pool.

Marty Robinson, RFCA President  
 prez@ravensworthfarm.org

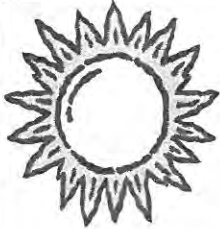
### SPRINGFIELD MALL BEGINS RENOVATION

As part of a two-year renovation plan, all stores except the main anchors will close by July of this year. Macys, Target, and J. C. Penney will remain open as the mall itself is renovated.

This renovation of the mall is Phase I of a four-part plan to transform the 80-acre site into the Springfield Town Center, according to Fairfax County's Office of Revitalization and Reinvestment. The Board of Supervisors approved re-zoning of the property in July 2009, to permit redevelopment of the mall into a mixed-use retail, office and residential town center.

For more information, see:  
<http://burke.patch.com/articles/springfield-mall-set-to-close-all-but-anchor-stores>





# COMMUNITY YARD SALE



**Saturday, May 12th**

**8:00 am to 1 pm**

**Ravensworth Farm Swimming Pool  
Parking Lot**

**Food & Drink on Sale!**

*Bring Your Tables, Etc & Set Up Your Items  
For Sale On the Outer Edges of the Parking Area.*

*Also, No Reservations!*



**FOR INFORMATION CALL:  
Stan Morgan 703-608-7872**



# ANNUAL PLANT SALE



*Sponsored by  
Green Thumb Garden Club*

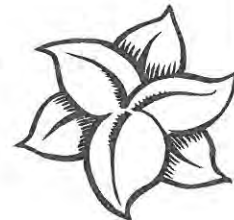
**Saturday, May 12th**

**9 am - 1 pm**

**Home-Grown Plants and Shrubs  
(Low Prices)**



**Ravensworth Shopping Center**



## GOLDEN RAVENS—WELCOME THE CENTENNIAL

That refers to the one hundredth anniversary celebrating the gift of cherry trees planted at the Jefferson Memorial Basin from Japan. They knew all the tourists would want to take pictures of them...with cameras made in Japan. Golden Ravens are made right here in our neighborhood through years and decades of working, playing and raising a family as they bought homes and kept up the yards, paid taxes and finally retired. They meet on the fourth Wednesday from September through May for lunch at the Community Church on Inverchapel, so if you have some memories to share or just want to do some people watching come on over. Call Joan Crofford for details each month at 703-321-7809. Bring your camera.



## GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

On Wednesday, March 7 Green Thumb Garden Club met at the home of Nancy Jarvie. Refreshments were provided by Nancy, Carey Robertson and Doddie Cave. After the business meeting Jenny Kalifa, the owner and head designer at Flower Den Florist in Bradlick Shopping Center, created two beautiful fresh flower arrangements. Jenny stressed not being afraid to use color and texture when arranging. Her "bubble bowl" bouquet was particularly clever. Gentlemen, it would make a perfect Mother's Day remembrance. Just call Jenny (703) 750-9400!

As spring arrives, members will begin dividing plants in their landscape and repotting for our annual plant sale. This year the plant sale will be on **Saturday, May 12** at the Ravensworth Shopping Center. This date allows Green Thumb to coordinate our sale with the Ravensworth Farm Yard Sale.

Garden of the Season judging will take place on **Monday, April 30**. Winners will be recognized in the May edition of *The Farmer*. Judges typically spend about three hours driving slowly through the neighborhood looking at overall design, color and harmony reflecting the season, and general maintenance. Just a reminder, a first place winner for the previous season is ineligible for first place back to back.

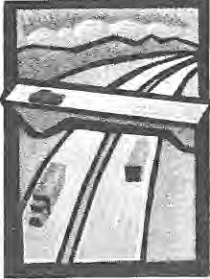
Our last two meetings will be on Wednesday, April 4 and May 2. Guests are always welcomed.



### A Gardening Goal for this Season:

Resolve to use fewer chemicals to keep pests away. You probably have more beneficial organisms than pests. Lacewings, lady beetles, ground beetles, and parasitic mini-wasps are beneficial insects. Try using herbs to lure and support these beneficial insects. Examples: plant basil or thyme with tomatoes or chervil with lettuce.

## WANT PERSONALIZED TRAFFIC TIPS & UPDATES?



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And, for a short time, get **extra perks** when you participate in Three for Free. It's easy – just sign up for a free account and do three things on the website such as sign up for alerts, like us on Facebook or share the site with friends. Then, we'll give you a free coupon of your choice to help you spruce up your ride – choose from the list below:

- \$5 off an oil change
- Free brake inspection
- \$5 off safety inspection and emissions test
- \$6 car wash
- Car already spiffed up? Get a coupon for a free appetizer or dessert at Chima Brazilian Steakhouse

But that's not all – we'll also automatically enter you into a drawing to win a **\$100 Tysons Corner Center gift card**.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

- Children who are five by September 30 are eligible to enter kindergarten that school year.
- A child who will be six years old on or before September 30 must attend school.
- A qualifying parent may elect to provide home instruction for his or her school-age child in lieu of school attendance. More information is also available by calling 571-423-4470.
- Parents & guardians can pick up enrollment packets at the school or please email to inquire if an electronic version is available. For more information, please call Ravensworth Elementary at 703-426-3600 or visit our front office during school hours.
- Ravensworth offers full-day kindergarten program.



## 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

## **PINK DEER ALERT! - COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH STUDY UNDERWAY**

As mentioned by Vicki Monroe

As part of a new research study looking at a novel method of controlling tick infestations, the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist's Office has deployed deer feeding stations in 20 locations across the county.

These stations are used to attract deer, using corn as bait. When the deer come to feed, they rub up against rollers treated with a pesticide used to kill ticks. A non-toxic dye is added to the rollers that will leave a pink streak on the deer that come in contact with the stations. The pink dye fades in three to four days.



Residents shouldn't be alarmed if they notice raccoons, squirrels, or other creatures that may have come into contact with the pink dye at the feeding stations.

The three-year study examines the use of this technology as a novel method of controlling tick infestations on white-tailed deer and the practicality of the stations to treat free-roaming deer. Deer are the primary host of adult blacklegged ticks which transmit diseases, such as Lyme disease, to humans.

Development of this study has been underway since 2009 and deployment of the stations is expected to last from 2012 through early 2015. The feeding stations have been deployed at the following locations: Sully Woodlands and Hemlock Overlook Regional Park. Laurel Hill Park and Braddock Park have been selected as control sites to collect additional tick data, minus deployment of the feeding stations.

The research study is being conducted by the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist's Office and the Health Department's Disease Carrying Insects Program, with the support of the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The feeding stations are not presently available for legal commercial use in Virginia, so a special permit was issued by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

The cost of the three-year study is approximately \$380,000 and includes purchase and maintenance of the feeding stations and supplies, corn, pesticide, and technicians' wages.



For more information on this study, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife) or contact the Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist Office at 703-246-6868.

## **MINING BEES**

Author: Mary Kay Malinoski, Regional Specialist, Home and Garden Information Center, 12005 Homewood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042 (1992) Adapted from: Mining Bees, Entomology Leaflet #104, Albert Greene and Dewey M. Caron, Extension Specialists, Maryland Cooperative Extension, Department of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742

### **Control**

It must be stressed that mining bees are extremely beneficial insects, of considerable importance in the pollination of many different types of plants. Their burrowing does not harm vegetation and may actually be of service in overturning the soil. Furthermore, the activity of species is extremely brief, with the adult bees flying for only 2 to 4 weeks. In some instances, the bees observed are males flying about their territories; males cannot sting nor do they make burrows.

If control is deemed necessary, use an insecticide registered for the purpose. There are wasp, hornet and bee aerosols available from garden centers, hardware stores, etc. These are not very efficient on mining bees and represent an expensive means of control. Individuals can be sprayed as they go about their activities and individual burrows can be sprayed. Repeat application will be necessary. A better means of control would be to apply a dust or liquid solution of one of various insecticides sold for lawn insect control. Apply the material at the recommended rate in the lawn area where the mining bees are nesting and then disturb the soil with a hoe or back of a rake trying to disrupt as many tunnel openings as possible. Then apply the spray or dust again. As the mining bees attempt to repair the damage and construct or repair tunnels, they should contact the insecticide and be killed. Repeat applications are usually necessary. It is virtually impossible to eliminate mining bees in a single season.

Mining or digger bees nest in burrows in the ground. Unlike the honey bee, mining bees are "solitary" bees. They do not form long-lived colonies, or live inside a single, well-defended nest controlled by one queen bee. Instead, each mining bee female usually digs her own individual burrow to rear her own young. Large numbers of these bees may nest close together if soil conditions are suitable. Mining bees are not aggressive and seldom, if ever, sting. The presence of numerous bees flying close to the ground, however, may constitute a nuisance for some people. Sometimes large numbers of males will fly about the same spot for several days in a mating display.

Mining bees range in size from about the size of honey bees to much smaller. The larger bees are furry and usually darker in color than honey bees. Some are brightly striped, while others are a shiny metallic green. Mining bee burrows may be located wherever there is exposed soil and good drainage. They are frequently found nesting in banks, such as along road cuts or any type of excavation, but may also be in level ground as well.

The holes are about one quarter inch (or less) in diameter. They are sometimes surrounded by a small mound of soil that the bee has brought up to the surface. Burrow structure varies according to species, but often there is a vertical tunnel with smaller side tunnels that terminate in a single cell. The female mining bee stocks each cell with pollen and nectar she collects from flowers and then deposits an egg on the food mass. The larva will hatch and consume the stored pollen and nectar. When mature, it becomes a pupa or resting stage and finally becomes an adult bee. The adult bees overwinter below ground in the burrow site. During the next spring or early summer the adults emerge, mate, and the females begin burrow excavation. Bee populations can fluctuate dramatically from one season to the next.

Have a home pest or garden question?

Contact [fairfaxmastergardeners.org](http://fairfaxmastergardeners.org) or 703-324-8556 or email [mgfairfax@vt.edu](mailto:mgfairfax@vt.edu)





## **LIBRARIES FACE MORE CUTS**

The budget for Fairfax County libraries has been cut almost 27 percent over the last four years. Now, the system is bracing for more reduction.

Since 2008, the Board of Supervisors has cut the library's budget from \$33.5 million in FY 2008 to \$26.0 million in FY 2012. The cut within the proposed FY 2013 is 1.21 percent — another \$324,359.

"We cannot afford any more cuts," said Charles Fegan, at large member of the Library Board of Trustees. The board met Wednesday night to discuss the budget. "The Board of Supervisors is very a-tune to this. We need to hit while the iron is hot. We have to take a stand."

"The cuts were intended to be on the edge, not [Library Director Sam Clay's] significant programs," Griffin told *The Connection* earlier this month.

But after cuts of more than \$7.5 million in the last five years, library staff are concerned there are no edges left to trim.

Griffin did not respond to Patch's request for clarification.

### **What Library Users Have Lost**

"We used to buy 22 copies of known authors, now we start with only four copies," Elizabeth Rhodes, collection services manager for Fairfax County's library system, told the library board. She said the budget cuts have significantly impacted the library's buying power. "We used to spend more than \$6 per capita, now it's less than \$3 per capita."

"It's very rare now that a community library will get a copy of a book. What we buy will first go the four busiest regional libraries in the system," she said.

In addition, Rhodes said, they aren't taking chances on new authors. "... We can't afford for a book not to earn its keep," she said, which means it must be checked out at least four times per year.

"FCPL is seeing a rise in requests for materials the system doesn't own," said Betsy Keefe, cataloging services manager. "This is a reflection of the budget cuts and our loss of purchasing power," she said.

In addition to loss of materials, the library has seen significant reductions in staff.

In the last five years FCPL has reduced its force by hundreds of workers. "The library reduced the total number of part-time (without benefits) positions from 305 in FY 2009 to 154 in FY 2010," said Mary Mulrenan, public information officer for the library. In addition, more than 100 full-time staff were also let go.

### **Calls for More Hours**

Staff cuts required reduced hours at many libraries across Fairfax County. Regional libraries went from being open 65 hours a week to 54 hours a week. Community branches went from 59 hours a week to 47 hours a week.

But now, restoration of hours is the concern of citizens and supervisors.

"More hours of operation was No. 1, 2 and 3 on everyone's list," said Clay of his town hall meetings last summer. "Even the surveys we did this past fall echoed that — more hours, more hours, more hours, more hours," he said.

*Con't Pg. 10*

*Con't from Pg. 9*

During recent budget discussions, Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth asked Clay to provide a list of restoration options, including costs, for library hours.

The Library Board reviewed options prepared by library staff, and voted Wednesday night to provide the Board of Supervisors with five options: two for regional libraries and three for community libraries.

**Option One:** With no additional funding, the library board is prepared to restore 24 hours a week at the regional libraries by adding three hours to each of the eight libraries. This would mean that as of September 2012, regionals would be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Mondays. They currently are open Mondays from 1 to 9 p.m. Sam Clay said this is possible because it can be accomplished without additional staff.

"The Library Board has identified the regionals as our major asset, and that's why we're focusing on them," Clay said. Of the 21 libraries in Fairfax County, eight are regionals.

**Option Two:** If the Board of Supervisors does not cut the \$324,000 from the library budget, the Library Board could restore 72 hours a week to the regional libraries. In this scenario, the regional libraries would be open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Clay said this is only possible with the money intact because it requires the addition of 24 15-hour positions.

The three options for adding hours to the community branches all require adding money to the budget — a minimum of \$509,600. "It would take \$1.2 million to hire the staff needed to take the community libraries back to their original 59 hours a week," said Clay.

To continue reading, please visit:

<http://burke.patch.com/articles/library-faces-more-cuts-considers-additional-hours>



**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.

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<b>WANTED</b>	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 <b>ONLY</b> on Saturday mornings.

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[www.hopeannandale.org](http://www.hopeannandale.org)



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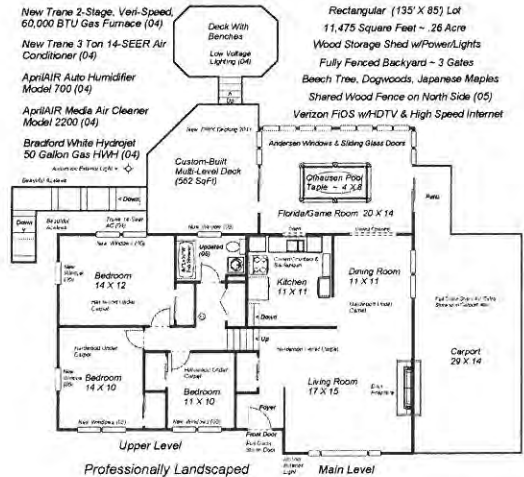
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Lower Level



Springfield, VA 22151

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(1 Layer) Roof & Gutters (02)  
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4 BR 4 BA Sep/\$393,744
- ② 8120 Drayton Lane  
Split Level  
4 BR 2 BA Nov/\$375,000
- ③ 8110 Adair Lane  
Rambler/Bsmt/Addition/Crpt  
3 BR 2 BA Dec/\$355,000
- ④ 5308 Oldcastle Lane  
Rambler/Basement  
5 BR 3 BA Dec/\$412,000
- ⑤ 5683 Ravenel Ln AS IS  
NEEDS  
UPDATING  
Rambler/Bsmt  
3 BR 2½ BA Dec/\$318,000
- ⑥ 8105 Gosport Lane  
Split Level/Carport  
4 BR 2 BA Dec/\$420,000
- ⑦ 5420 Inverchapel Completely  
Updated  
Rambler/Bsmt  
4 BR 3 BA Dec/\$475,000
- ⑧ 7902 Foote Lane  
Split Level/Addition  
4 BR 2 BA Dec/\$407,500
- ⑨ 7915 Hatteras Completely  
Updated  
Rambler/Bsmt  
5 BR 3 BA Dec/\$440,000
- ⑩ 5617 Sedgwick Short Sale  
Big Split Foyer AS IS  
5 BR 3 BA Mar/\$384,000

6 of 10 transactions above involved Seller Subsidies averaging \$9,300 ~ NOT reflected in Sales Price.  
 Sales represent general activity in Ravensworth Farm and do not imply Harms Realty participation.