

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

Springfield, Virginia

April 2013

The Ravensworth Farmer

VOL. XLVIII Issue 8

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

We enjoyed listening to a great speaker at our March General membership meeting. Mike McClanahan the Chief of Staff from the Lee District Supervisor's office talked to us about the 15 year Springfield Mall development project and answered questions from members and the board. I want to thank Mike for taking time out of his busy schedule to stop by our meeting and to Supervisor Cook who helped make it happen. It was very informative. Not since the mixing bowl has Springfield attracted this much capital investment in such a condensed area. Most of you have already noticed the mall is gutted. Long gone are the days of Time Out, Hong Kong, and Princess Di touring JC Penney. We expect to see a tremendous difference once the initial phase is completed. Secondary and tertiary development phases include mixed use and retail/ office /residential projects and will be allocated to the property's periphery. Market forces and demand will dictate when those phases begin. The bottom line is it won't look anything like it once did. The name will change from Springfield Mall to Springfield Town Center.

Con't Pg. 3

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 27th

RFCA Community Yard Sale 8AM-1PM, Ravensworth Pool and Community of Christ Church

April 29th

Garden of the Season Judging

May 5th

Ravensworth Community Picnic, 3PM-5:30PM

May 11th

Green Thumb Garden Club Plant Sale Ravensworth Shopping Center, AM

May 23th

RFCA General Meeting, 7:30PM, Ravensworth ES

See pg. 13 for more Upcoming Events

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

EXECUTIV	TF (COMN	HTTFF
CAECUIIV	L.		HILLE

EADCOTT COMMITTEE					
President	Kevin Joyce	703-587-7989	prez@ravensworthfarm.org		
1st Vice President	Ellen Eggerton	703-321-4948	vp1@ravensworthfarm.org		
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Corresponding Secretary	VACANT				
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Legislative & County Affairs	Vacant		
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Green Committee	Jim Hickey	703-321-8535	
Membership & Communications	Elissa Myers	703-321-7590	
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Pool Presiden	t	Rob Hannam	703-321-7398	
Green Thumb Garden Club		Doddie Cave Nancy Jarvie	703-321-9773 703-321-8319	
Golden Raver	ns	Joan Crofford	703-321-7809	

Association Calendar 2012 - 2013

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	Farmer DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT Farmer	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
April	3	3	5	11	27	
May	1	Apr. 29	3	8	18	23

General and Board meetings are held at Ravensworth Elementary School. Meetings are canceled in the event of Fairfax County Public Schools' early closing or school cancelation. Meetings are at 7:30pm unless otherwise announced.

Con't from Pg. 1

I'd like to remind everyone that we're still accepting proposals to take advantage of a grant program offered by the HOT lanes developers Fluor and Transurban. It's called the 495 Express Lanes Community Grant Program and it supports organizations that sustain, enhance or protect the local environment and neighborhoods. The Ravensworth Farm civic association board is accepting proposals from members to take advantage of a \$5,000 grant. Details can be found here: https://www.495expresslanes.com/grant-program. There are two categories to choose from-- Community and Environment. Proposals are due no later than May 31. Please include along with your idea any necessary drawings and sketches as well as a breakdown of costs for materials and labor. Proposals can be mailed to PO Box 1020 – Springfield, VA 22151 Attn: 495 Express Lane Grant Program or emailed in pdf to prez@ravensworthfarm.org. Only active RFCA members are eligible to participate through the Civic Association. The winning idea will be announced on the website over the summer.

We try to line up speakers for topics that are relevant to our community at each of our General Membership meetings. If you have an idea, please share it with me at the email above. We'd love to hear from you!

Lastly, we have some board seat vacancies. Are you interested in participating in local government and meeting new neighbors? It's a lot of fun and quite rewarding. We're looking for a Corresponding Secretary and 1st Vice President. If you know someone who's interested please feel free to reach out to them or let me know. We're always on the lookout for good talent and people who want to keep Ravensworth Farm one of the best and most involved communities in the Braddock District.

Until next month have a great April and enjoy waving goodbye to cold weather.

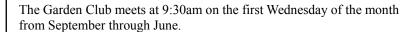
Kevin Joyce, RFCA President prez@ravensworthfarm.org

APRIL SHOWERS BRING MAY FLOWERS - AND GOLDEN RAVENS

No, that is not a new species of garden flora or fauna but rather the senior citizens of Ravensworth. They gather on the fourth Wednesday each month for lunch, conversation, and learning from each other and guest speakers. Everyone of a certain age is welcome to just come on over and meet your neighbors and maybe make a new friend. They appreciate the hospitality of the Community of Christ Church – no affiliation - which makes the room available and the volunteer participation of each one who helps to make it possible. For the next surprise awaiting you call Joan Crofford for details at 703-321-7809.

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club met on April 3 at the home of Ursula Schuttinga. Master Gardener Phil Rusk presented a remarkable program on bee keeping. We welcomed guests Staci Root and Tatiana Lisle. The Spring "Garden of the Season" judging will take place on Monday, April 29. Our annual plant sale will be held at Ravensworth Shopping Center the morning of Saturday, May 11.







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COMMUNITY PICNIC MAY 5

The Ravensworth Farm Community Picnic will be May 5 from 3:00-5:30pm at Community of Christ Church. Bring a dish (main, side, salad, dessert) to share and plan to have a great time hanging out with your neighbors. The RFCA will provide hot dogs and beverages.

Thank you to Jennifer Auble for volunteering to coordinate the picnic. Given the expected arrival of her baby just days after the picnic, Jen will need many helpers for set up, clean up, and games and activities for the kids. Contact her at jenmarzouk@yahoo.com or (703) 922-9353 to volunteer.



POOL SPECIAL OFFER FOR SENIORS

As a courtesy and a gesture of gratitude to those of the Ravensworth community who are over 65 years old and have collected at least 15 years of pool membership over the years, the Board of Directors is offering a reduced



price membership this year. This is a trial offer and may be renewed again in the following years, depending on revenues generated by the plan. The plan price is \$250, plus a grounds and maintenance fee of \$20, totaling \$270. No early bird discounts apply and the offer is good until Memorial Day. The senior membership includes a maximum of two people living in the same residence- the primary member and a spouse meeting the previously mentioned criteria. All other restrictions and rules apply regarding guests. Please contact Scott Houghton with questions or to sign up under this plan - (703)598-1431 or membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com.

<u>BABYSITTING CO-OP, INSURANCE AT RFCA GENERAL MEETING MAY 23</u>

A panel of parents will speak about the Ravensworth Babysitting Cooperative at the May 23 General Meeting in the Ravensworth school cafeteria. Elections will be held. The nominated slate includes the current officers except for the First Vice President and Corresponding Secretary. Nominations for those positions and any positions to be contested will be accepted in advance to president Kevin Joyce or at the meeting. There will also be some discussion of the merits of purchasing General Liability or Directors & Officers Liability Insurance for the Ravensworth Farm Community Association.

TWO BOARD POSITIONS OPEN

Corresponding Secretary The board has an opening for a Corresponding Secretary who will conduct official Board of Directors correspondence, share Farmer (via email) with local government offices and other communities, and retain/preserve copies of all deeds, leases, contracts, association instruments. There is opportunity to be creative in self-directed projects and have some fun. It will take as little or as much time as you have.

First Vice President The primary responsibilities of the First Vice President are to secure speakers for the general membership meetings and to preside over the judging of the holiday displays. In the absence of the president, this person would perform the duties of the president. In the past, this position has also served as delegate to the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations and as representative to the Braddock District Council.





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The Scouts will be knocking on your door to renew and sign up supporters on Monday, May 27 or you can easily sign up this way: Make a \$40 check payable to "BSA Unit 1147" and send to Kyle Curd at 8316 Tobin Rd, Apt T2, Annandale, VA 22003. Contact Kyle Curd with questions at 703-229-2062 or FlagFundraiser@gmail.com.

LAPS 4 LEARNING: RAVENSWORTH PTA'S BIGGEST FUNDRAISER

Laps 4 Learning is Ravensworth Elementary PTA's biggest fundraiser! On April 19 students ran as many laps as they could in 20 minutes. Students were asked to get family and friends to pledge money per lap or to donate a flat amount. The goal for 2014 is to raise \$12,000! The student who raises the most money will win a Kindle Fire donated by Andrew Gause Martial Arts and the student who ran the most laps will win a \$50 Foot Locker gift card. All students who raise more than \$150 will get to attend an ice cream party sponsored by the Dairy Queen at Ravensworth Shopping Center.

It's not too late to support Ravensworth Elementary or a specific student in the neighborhood! Donations are accepted through April 29. Donations are happily accepted in the Main Office or online using PayPal at ravensworthpta.org/fundraising. The PTA supports teacher grants, classroom technology, reading programs and more within the school. Contact Laps 4 Learning chairs Heather Drumm and Clare Laskofski at laps@ravensworthpta.org with questions.

AIR POLLUTION COULD CAUSE MEMORY PROBLEMS

from Univ of Florida Health Science Center

What was that person's name you just met? Where are the car keys? You might just be having another senior moment ... or you might be able to blame it on the air. New research shows that air pollution could cause lapses in memory in older adults.

Research has shown that pollution causes developmental delays in children, but the effect seems to span generations. The study looked at memory test results of more than 15,000 men and women over the age of 50. The researchers then compared the results with the EPA's annual average level of fine air particulate matter. Every 10-point increase in air pollution exposure was connected to a one-third point drop in the memory test score. Although that doesn't sound like a lot, it actually equates to three years in aging.

Air pollution cause problems when the particles are inhaled into the lungs and even the brain. It's especially aggravating to those with heart and lung disease, who often require hospital and emergency room visits even after just short-term exposures of 24 hours or less. Exposure of a year or more can lead to respiratory disease.

The 10 most polluted cities in 2012 were Bakersfield, Hanford, Los Angeles, Visalia and Fresno in California, as well as Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Louisville and Philadelphia. The good news is that if you live in one of these contaminated locales, there are a few things you can do to reduce your exposure. Don't exercise outdoors and limit exertion when pollution levels are high. Drive with the air-recirculating button on when commuting. Fit your home with filters to reduce particles inside, too. Limiting the use of wood-burning stoves, fireplaces and candles can keep air cleaner, too. A little foresight and planning can keep your lungs, heart and brain pollution-free.

SPRINGFIELD TOWN CENTER AND SPRINGFIELD'S BID FOR THE FBI

The March 21 RFCA General Meeting included a briefing by Mike McClanahan, Chief of Staff of the Lee District Supervisor's office, on the \$200 million transformation of Springfield Mall into Springfield Town Center. When the Springfield Town Center opens in the summer of 2014, it will be unrecognizable as the old Springfield Mall.

Vornado, the company redeveloping the mall, conducted a study that concluded that the Springfield Mall complex is the "most likely profitable in the whole United States." As they are losing one million dollars every month that the mall remains closed, it is to be hoped their study proves to be correct.

The Town Center will feature a "Restaurant Row" with outdoor dining on the Loisdale Road side. They also expect a fitness location and multiple, upscale "mini-box" stores. The "mom and pop" stores previously located in the mall will probably not be offered space again, though the names of new tenants have not been released. JC Penney, Target, and Macy's are open throughout the entire redevelopment. Vornado has worked closely with police to create a safe environment in the mall. There will no longer be dead-end hallways, for example.

The outside of the mall will look very different, too. The developer will upgrade Frontier Drive and provide a better pedestrian route from the Franconia Metro to the mall. The parking area will have more trees and an outer ring road. Additional development on the periphery of the mall space may be built in later phases with the possibilities of office, hotel, and multi-family housing all open. The storm water drainage and other areas are being retrofitted to bring them up to current code.

The developer donated, through a proffer agreement with Fairfax County, one million dollars for a turf field for Lee High School. Whiting-Turner, the project's contractor, has hired 800 people from the area around the mall.

Mr. McClanahan was also able to provide some information about Springfield's bid to move the FBI from the disintegrating J. Edgar Hoover Building to the Springfield site where GSA currently maintains warehouses near the Franconia Metro. The site meets the Senate's authorizing resolution that stipulates that the FBI find a site in the region within two miles of a Metro station and within 2.5 miles of the Beltway. The Springfield site has the added benefit of already belonging to the federal government. Thirty-five proposals have been put forward from across the region and will probably be narrowed to four or five before the final political tug of war between Maryland, DC, and Virginia begins in earnest. The FBI is hoping to consolidate its 11,000 employees from 21 locations into one new location. The old building would be demolished and redeveloped as premium office and retail space on Pennsylvania Avenue. The new FBI site is proposed to contain not only offices for the 11,000 employees but also a hotel, conference center, and museum. If the FBI were to choose the Springfield location, Fairfax County would complete Frontier Drive into a loop back to Loisdale Road.

Editor's note: A March 23 article in The Washington Post titled "Northern Virginia officials worry secret CIA facility could scuttle hopes for landing FBI HQ" suggests that the Springfield location is unlikely to be chosen as a GSA warehouse there may include an underground facility used by the CIA.





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GEM REVIEW: PIERO'S CORNER

Reviewed by: Kevin Joyce

Piero's Corner is situated at the corner of Main St. and Stonewall Ave. near where Burke Station Rd. intersects 236. It's on the site of the old Carlo O'Kelly's and has been completely redone. They've apparently been there for a number of years but this was the first time we went. The food and wine were fantastic. The atmosphere was uplifting and you didn't feel too overwhelmed by the service or the other patrons. There was enough room between the tables and we weren't rushed so the server could turn the table over. The general manager Benny was kind and stopped by a couple of times to chat with our



group and see how the meal was coming along. All in all we loved it and can't wait to go back. Prices were reasonable but not cheap. They also have a Herndon location. pieroscorner.com; 9959 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22031; Tel: 703-246-0097

The Ravensworth Farm Community Association board wants to encourage neighbors to share great ideas with neighbors. Whether it's an eatery, theater, tool, park, repair place, preschool, or builder, if you've found a "gem"... please share. Send reviews to rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org. Thanks for sharing!

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

Alma Hadzic and Semir Memic 5412 Nutting Dr.

Mark and Jasna Rosera 5520 Queensberry Ave



Anamaria Stepanovich and family 5625 Inverchapel

Paul and Kristina Pena 5230 Oldcastle Lane

Don't assume that someone else will tell Jill Mowbray (703-865-8368, bjm820@hotmail.com) about new neighbors. Do your part to ensure that Ravensworth Farm continues a long tradition as a welcoming community. If you're new or not-so-new and we've missed you, please let Jill know you have arrived.



<u>CLASSIFIED ADS</u> may be placed in The **Farmer** at no cost to Ravensworth Farm residents. Classified ads may be placed by sending them to rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org or to PO Box 1020, Springfield, VA 22151. The classified ad section is a service to Ravensworth residents and is not intended for business or commercial use. Ads for house sales, commercial services, etc. will be run in this section once. If you wish to repeat your ad, you will need to purchase advertising in The **Farmer**.

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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NIGHTTIME WORK ON BRADDOCK UNTIL MAY 9

from the office Braddock Supervisor Cook

Last fall we were fortunate to have had Braddock Road repaved between Rolling Road and Roberts Road. Due to the work being completed so close to the cold weather season, the last few bits of corrective work had to wait until the Spring to be done. The work will include milling and resurfacing patches of Braddock Road from Roberts Road to Rolling Road. During the same time period, milling, resurfacing and marking of Braddock Road from Ravensworth Road to Queensbury Avenue will also occur.



MISSED PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION?



The WEE Center at Braddock Rd and Kings Park Dr reports they have a few spaces in each class for ages 16 months to five years for one to four day classes. Tel: 703-978-0640. The director, Ann Lipton, grew up in Ravensworth Farm and still hangs out here with her parents. Feel free to call her for a tour.

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EVENTS

- **April 27** 8am-1pm **Ravensworth Farm & Community of Christ Church Yard Sale** at the Ravensworth Pool and Community of Christ Church
- April 29 Judging for the Garden of the Season by the Green Thumb Garden Club
- April 30 Last day to get the Early Bird Discount for the Ravensworth Farm Pool ravensworthfarmpool.com
- May 2 10am-5pm Book Sale Kings Park Library
- **May 5** 3:00-5:30pm **Ravensworth Community Picnic** contact Jen Auble at 703-922-9353 or jenmarzouk@yahoo.com to volunteer
- May 10 Raid at Martin's Station reenactment at Wilderness Road State Park, Ewing, VA. Frontier battles between Cherokee warriors and settlers of Martin's Station. Battles Saturday at 1pm and 8:30pm. \$5/adults, \$1/child. Night battle is \$3 per vehicle. dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/wil.shtml
- May 11 Green Thumb Garden Club Plant Sale at Ravensworth Shopping Center morning
- May 18 8am-noon Secure Document Shredding Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- May 19 10am 3pm Electric Sunday Recycling I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax
- May 23 7:30pm RFCA General Meeting, Ravensworth Elementary cafeteria.
- May 25 Ravensworth Farm Pool Opening Day ravensworthfarmpool.com
- June 18 scheduled Last Day of School for Fairfax County schools
- June 22 8am-noon Secure Document Shredding Braddock District Office (co-located with the Kings Park Library), 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke
- June 23–10am 3pm Electric Sunday Recycling I-95 Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton
- **June 24-28 Immanuel Bible Church Vacation Bible School -** Ages 4 by 9/30 through rising 3rd Grade "Every Day is a Holiday" 9:30am-noon. Ages 4th grade rising 6th "Glow" 7-9:00pm. \$20, immanuelbible.net



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TEXTING WHILE PARENTING: CAN IT WAIT?

excerpted from an article by Sierra Filucci, March 8, 2013, commonsensemedia.org

Distracted parenting is a hot topic lately. Some experts are linking the rise in smartphone ownership with a spike in emergency room visits for kids under five. Research has shown that smartphone users' interpretation of how long they're staring at their phones instead of their kids is grossly underestimated. It might feel like 20 seconds, but really three minutes have passed—long enough for younger kids to get into trouble and for older kids to feel neglected. So, put away your phone if your kids are swimming unattended or doing anything else potentially dangerous. And, of course, don't use your phone while driving, especially with kids in the car.



AVERAGE FAIRFAX COUNTY TAX BILL COULD JUMP \$262

By William Callahan, writing on AnnandalePatch.com, March 7, 2013

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has set the FY 2014 budget's advertised real estate tax rate at \$1.095 per \$100 of assessed value, a 2-cent increase from the current rate of \$1.075.

Supervisors approved the rate in a 9-1 vote after killing an amendment from Supervisor Gerry Hyland to raise it another 1.5 cents to \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value. Hyland's proposal would have hiked the average resident's taxes \$332, but was shot down in a 8-2 vote against the amendment.

Once the Board sets an advertised tax rate, it can't legally adopt one any higher. Hyland argued that with the unknown effects of sequestration on the horizon, the Board should advertise a rate that would give it room to adjust to cuts and other effects. "The next 22 or 23 days, for me, creates such uncertainty that it would be very helpful for us to at least advertise a higher tax rate as a cushion and a hedge against what else might happen that we're not expecting," Hyland said. A 2-cent increase didn't provide the breathing room Hyland felt they needed. "I think we're going to have a major struggle," he said. "If we don't advertise a higher rate, then we are, frankly, stuck with a proposed budget with no flexibility."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he would vote to advertise the rate to start the dialogue with residents but wanted to see it go down. "I do not agree with the county executive's budget and I hope that we will look at reducing some of the expenditures," he said. "I will not support a budget that is at the advertised rates, but I will advertise them to get the discussion going."

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins was the only Board member to support Hyland's motion. She agreed the rate could be adjusted as the county conducted its public outreach meetings over the coming weeks. "This is about advertising a tax rate, not adopting a tax rate," Hudgins said. "This is an honest opportunity to arrive at the right solution."

But the rest of the Board felt \$1.11 per \$100 of assessed value was far too high, considering many residents weren't pleased with the original 2-cent bump. "I am hearing from individuals in the community just about the increase of 2 cents," Chairman Sharon Bulova said, let alone one any higher.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) was the sole vote against the adoption of an advertised rate of \$1.095 cents. He argued the tax increase would be too heavy a burden on homeowners when rolled together with other county taxes. "I wouldn't support the budget at this level, and I don't think we should be advertising this level," he said.

FAIRFAX BOARD OKS HOME DAY CARE CHANGES

William Callahan, writing on AnnandalePatch.com, Dec 4, 2012 Home day care centers in Fairfax County will soon become safer.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has unanimously approved making changes to regulations on home day care centers, requiring more hours of training as well as fire safety measures.

During its recent meeting, the Board voted to adopt amendments to the Home Child Care Facilities Ordinance. Providers will now have to attend 16 hours of training instead of the original 12 and undergo tuberculosis screenings, as well as install carbon monoxide detectors to comply with county fire safety codes.

"These amendments reflect recommendations and input from a variety of county agencies and outline the best practices in the field," said Monica Jackson, speaking on behalf of the Child Care Advisory Council. "The proposed amendments are intended to support the health and safety of children and the from the meeting.

The Board did not discuss changes to the number of children a home day care facility is allowed to have, a topic of hot debate over the summer. It is expected to come up in 2013.



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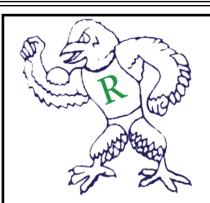
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