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RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

December 2014

**The Ravensworth *Farmer***

Issue 3

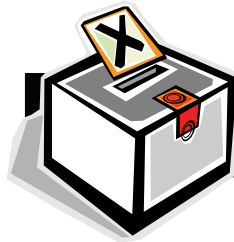
**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

It's early November as of this writing and I've already raked at least 10 bags of leaves but the bulk is still yet to come! I saw a lot of Halloween spirit again this year. It was fun. Did anybody make it to the haunted event at the Accotink Marina? I surprised my wife with a date night. We walked over from our house on Ravenel and played miniature golf with glow-in-the dark balls. There were a lot of people there and was a ton of fun. Not only did they have a bonfire on the beach but the carousel ran after hours. We'll definitely be checking it out again next year.

If you didn't have a chance to make our last quarterly general membership meeting you missed a good one. Supervisor Cook joined us to provide an update on Braddock District happenings and take questions. I appreciated the intimate environment to hear what he had to say and get our questions answered. It was one of the largest turnouts I've seen since I started volunteering four years ago. Thanks to all who came out.

We voted on the budget and it's very similar to what we did last year. We're planning the spring hayride, Halloween party, and spring picnic again this fiscal year but need a couple volunteers to help us with coordinating the picnic/block party. If you're interested please let me know.

*Con't Pg. 3*



**2014 Election  
How We Voted**

Neighborhood Election Results,  
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Fairfax County Safe Driving Campaign, Pg. 9

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How to Hire a Contractor, Pg. 17



**Holiday Lights Judging**

Ravensworth Holiday Decorations Judging will take place between December 1 and December 14. Check the next issue of The Famer to see the results.

Article 1, 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	Kevin Joyce	703-587-7989	prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1st Vice President	Mary Keeser	703-321-4925	vp1@ravensworthfarm.org
2nd Vice President	Dean Fix	703-321-3048	vp2@ravensworthfarm.org
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151	recsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hammond	703-321-0546	
Treasurer	VACANT		

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Service (Streets / Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-209-2675	rfnw@ravensworthfarm.org
Schools & Education	Jill Mowbray Maria Dastur	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.com mariacdastur@gmail.com
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 Brenda Soares Margaret Kinder	703-209-4424 703-321-7856 703-764-9576	
Hospitality	Jacqueline Fix Ruth Hartman	703-321-3048 703-321-8063	hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
New Neighbors	Jill Mowbray	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.com
Cultural Committee	Spanish Korean	Dinora Gonzalez Seo Pani	703-321-0160 703-321-8081
Directory	Coordinator Advertising	Stephen Beste Katherine Craig	703-321-9110 703-321-3149
<b>Farmer</b>	Editor Preparation Printing, Flyers, Assembly Distribution Advertising	Sara Ortiz Susan Deyampert Laura Asiello Jacqueline Fix Katherine Craig	703-321-8757 703-321-3150 703-321-7840 703-321-3048 703-321-3149
			rcaf farmer@ravensworthfarm.org jfasiello@aol.com hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
Neighborhood Watch	Tom Terry	703-209-2675	rfnw@ravensworthfarm.org
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Anita Bhatnagar	703-942-6806	president@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Rob Hannam	703-321-7398	
Green Thumb Garden Club	Ursula Schuttinga	703-321-3535	
Golden Ravens	Joan Crofford	703-321-7809	

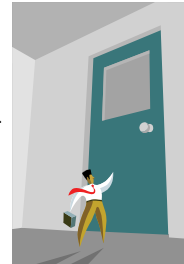
## Association Meetings & Deadlines 2014 - 2015

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT <i>Farmer</i>	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
<b>December</b>	Dec. 3	Dec. 3	Dec. 4	Dec. 19	Jan.17	
<b>January</b>	Jan. 7	Jan. 7	Jan. 8	Jan. 15	Feb. 7	
<b>February</b>	Feb. 4	Feb. 4	Feb. 5	Feb. 12	Feb. 28	
<b>March</b>	Mar. 4	Mar. 4	Mar. 5	Mar. 10	Mar. 21	Mar. 26
<b>April</b>	Apr. 8	Apr. 8	Apr. 9	Apr. 16	May 2	
<b>May</b>	Apr. 28	Apr. 28	May 7	May 7	May 30	May 28

**General and Board meetings will be held at Community of Christ Church on Inverchapel Rd. Meetings are at 7:30pm unless otherwise announced.**

*Con't from Pg. 1*

New directories will be going out very soon and the membership drive will kick off around the same time so don't ignore your block captains who will be knocking on your door. It's a great opportunity to meet new people in your neighborhood. We had over 70 updates this year to our directory! With 850+ homes that's a lot. Don't forget dues for membership in the civic association are \$10 again this year. It's still the best deal in town. However, we may need to raise the dues next year to cover the rising cost of printing The Ravensworth Farmer and the directory. My guess is it might only rise to \$20 and stay there for another 15+ years. But do keep in mind dues in 1963 were \$5 and in today's dollars that would be almost \$44. It's still a screaming deal if you compare it to other communities in the area!



Stay tuned to this newsletter and our website for upcoming events. For example, the annual community cleanup day has moved to the pool. It's scheduled to start at 8am on March 14. You can also find all the contact info you need in the directory. Christmas will be right around the corner when this comes out and as always I hope it finds you well.

Don't hesitate to write me if you have something on your mind. I love hearing from you.

See you around.

Warmly,  
Kevin

### LIKE TO PARTY??? CHECK OUT GOLDEN RAVENS

Lest you think getting older takes out all the fun, consider the next two meetings of the seniors in Ravensworth Farm. Here is how they will be celebrating the season. On November 19 they will be hosting a bag lunch and a mystery speaker. Then on December 17 they will convene for the annual pot luck and seasonal party.

Mark your calendar and come on down. Meetings of the Golden Ravens convene at the Community Church on Inverchapel at 11:30AM, with many thanks for the facility. So, if this does not convince you enough, please call Joan Crofford for more details and help with transportation at 703-321-7809.

### GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

The Garden Club enjoyed a lovely Christmas Tea December 4 at the home of Doddie Cave.

The Garden Club's next meeting will be about Birding with speaker Harry Glasgow. It will be at the home of Barbara Adams at 9:30 on Wednesday, January 7. Call Ursula Schuttinga at 703-321-3535 for more information.



### BOY SCOUT TROOP 991 - OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Sky Meadows State Park, the boys had a great time at Camporee, working on knots and lashings and building a catapult! At Camp Rock Enon, they worked on fire-building skills and tasty meals!

We'd like to thank everyone who supported us at the community yard sale, especially Rob and the folks at the pool, and everyone who provided something to Scouting for Food!

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**HOW WE VOTED (NOVEMBER 4, 2014)**

	Ravensworth		Fairfax County		Virginia	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>Senate</b>						
Gillespie (R)	360	44.2%	<u>122,788</u>	40.2%	<u>1,055,357</u>	48.4%
Warner (D)	426	52.3% ✓	<u>176,324</u>	57.7% ✓	<u>1,071,658</u>	49.1% ✓
Sarvis (L)	28	3.4%	<u>6,326</u>	2.1%	53,021	2.4%
Write-Ins	<u>0</u>	0.0%	<u>264</u>	0.1%	<u>1,809</u>	0.1%
<i>Total</i>	814		305,702		2,181,845	
<b>House (11th District)</b>						
Scholte (R)	372	46.1%	<u>60,133</u>	41.1%	<u>75,757</u>	40.4%
Connolly (D)	401	49.7% ✓	82,032	56.0% ✓	106,738	56.9% ✓
Galdo (G)	12	1.5%	<u>1,405</u>	1.0%	1,737	0.9%
Harrold (L)	22	2.7%	2,605	1.8%	3,263	1.7%
Write-Ins	<u>0</u>	0.0%	<u>191</u>	0.1%	<u>225</u>	0.1%
<i>Total</i>	807		146,366		187,720	
<b>Constitutional Amendment - Property tax relief for war widows</b>						
Yes	698	87.1% ✓	<u>256,709</u>	85.9%	<u>1,841,005</u>	87.3% ✓
No	<u>103</u>	12.9%	<u>42,054</u>	14.1% ✓	<u>268,766</u>	12.7%
<i>Total</i>	801		298,763		2,109,771	
<b>Fairfax County Bond Issue - Transportation</b>						
Yes	554	68.6% ✓	214,529	71.8% ✓		
No	<u>254</u>	31.4%	<u>84,055</u>	28.2%		
<i>Total</i>	808		298,584			
<b>Turnout</b>						
Registered voters	1,667		675,268		TBD	
Voting	817	49.0%	279,851	41.4%	TBD	
Voting absentee	<u>47</u>	2.8%	<u>28,544</u>	4.2%	<u>TBD</u>	
Total voting	864		308,395		0	
<i>Turnout</i>		51.8%		45.7%		

**Sources**

Turnout statistics for Ravensworth precinct & county from Fairfax County Elections Board, Nov 12, 2013.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/returns.htm>

Vote tallies from the Virginia Department of Elections

<http://elections.virginia.gov/index.php/resultsreports/election-results/>

Thanks to Steve Beste for compiling this data for us each year since at least 2000.





## **AWARD-WINNING RAVENSWORTH ELECTION OFFICERS**

Congratulations to Ravensworth Farm Elections Officers.

Ruth Hartman, longtime Ravensworth Precinct Election Officer, was recently recognized by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Board of Elections as having served at the most elections (over 64) of any Election Officer in Fairfax County. Ruth has served as a regular officer and Chief Officer over the years, primarily in the Ravensworth Precinct.

Doddie Cave was recognized as third-most-serving Election Officer in Fairfax County at 57 elections worked. Doddie is currently the Chief Election Officer for the Ravensworth Precinct, having taken over from Ruth. Norman Van Dam, also from Ravensworth Farm, serves as the assistant chief.

Virginia (Ginger) Rogers was also recognized for her service at more than 20 elections.

Ruth, Doddie, and Ginger have no plans to quit serving as Election Officers so be sure to say thank you when you go to vote next time. Better yet, join Ruth, Doddie, Ginger, Norman, John, and Sara, all of Ravensworth Farm, as Election Officers and make it an all-Ravensworth team at the polls next time.

## **PROPOSED CIVIC ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY-WIDE SAFE DRIVING CAMPAIGN**

Whereas, the safety of our community is of great interest to our association, and

Whereas, our residents enjoy walking, bicycle riding, and playing in their yards, and

Whereas, the safety and enjoyment of our community is diminished by drivers who speed through the neighborhood, and

Whereas, the Fairfax County Police inform us that the majority of speeding in a neighborhood is done by its own residents, and

Whereas, our Braddock District Supervisor, John Cook, and the entire Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, has made combating speeding a district and county priority, and

Whereas, our voluntary adherence to the speed limit and safe driving practices will provide an important means of addressing this issue,

Be it now resolved, that the members of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association hereby declare Ravensworth Farm to be a "Safe Driving Community" in Fairfax County, and call on all members of our community to slow down, obey the speed limit, and employ safe driving practices for the safety and quiet enjoyment of our residents.

What do you think? Yes? No? If you're a member of the Civic Association, let any member of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association Board of Directors know your opinion. Each Board member's contact information is inside the front cover of every edition of The Ravensworth Farmer.

Supervisor John Cook's office is providing free Slow Down signs for households in the Braddock District. Stop by his office, connected to the Kings Park Library, and pick up a sign for your yard.

For more information on the Slow Down safe driving community initiative, visit this site <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/slowdown/> .

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## TOP QUALITY WORK

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## **GARDEN OF THE SEASON - FALL**

The Gardens of the Season for Fall were judged in October.

The results are:

1st Place - the Helmick Family - 5513 Sedgwick Lane

2nd Place - the McGrady Family - 5311 Nutting Drive

3rd Place - the Daimler Family - 5616 Rathbone Place

Honorable Mentions include:

8117 Adair Lane

8121 Adair Lane

8135 Carrick Lane

8135 Drayton Lane

7925 Ellet Road

7940 Ellet Road

5604 Inverchapel Road

5227 Landgrave Lane

5309 Nutting Drive

5225 Queensberry Avenue

5324 Queensberry Avenue

5645 Ravenel Lane

7916 Slidell Lane

5612 Rathbone Place



## **A CHRISTMAS CAROL DEC. 9**

The Navy Safe Harbor Foundation is presenting "A Christmas Carol," adapted from the Charles Dickens masterwork by Donna Ferragut. Come ring in the holiday season with this one-hour family classic. Proceeds from the performance at The Little Theatre of Alexandria on December 9th will go towards the non-medical care of seriously wounded, ill, and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and their families.

Program: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Pre-Show Festivities (drinks and hors d'oeuvres); 8:00 pm Show begins;

- Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com>

*Thanks to Maureen Frank for the tip*



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT COMMUNITY OF CHRIST**

December 24 at 7:30. Come hear the Christmas story through song and verse! 5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, VA

## **GEM REVIEW: MAGGIANO'S LITTLE ITALY**

by Kevin Joyce

My wife and I checked out the newest Maggiano's location at the Springfield Town Center a few days after opening day. We've always been fans of their Tysons edition and I must say they expertly transferred the same formula to Springfield. We love it and it's a great place to catch up with your neighbors after a long week. Enjoy!

## HYPOTHERMIA PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Hypothermia Prevention Program is one of the county's most successful—and important—public-private partnerships. The program relies on nonprofit and faith-based community partners to help carry out the life-saving mission to give the county's most vulnerable neighbors a safe place stay from the cold.

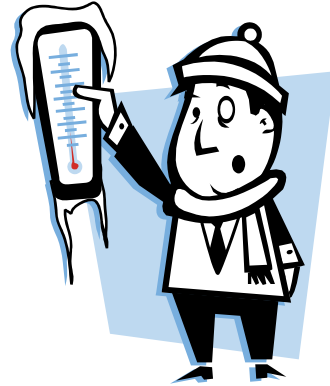
It is thanks to the collaborative efforts of the partnership that no unsheltered individuals died due to hypothermia this past winter.

The hypothermia shelters operate from November through March every year, with a "no turn-away" policy during freezing temperatures at all emergency homeless shelters beginning on Nov. 1. The county worked with partners to visit shelter sites prior to the 2013-2014 season to ensure they met the applicable fire and building codes.

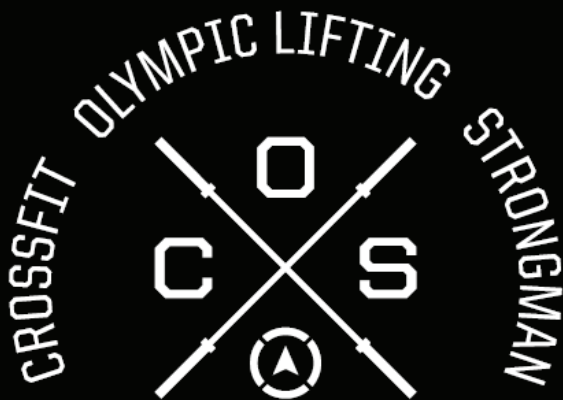
### Program Highlights

The Hypothermia Prevention Program:

- Served 1,056 unduplicated individuals during the 2013-2014 season
- Offers 36 shelters across the county—35 of which are places of worship
- Functions using more than 2,300 volunteers to run the shelters



<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/hypothermia-prevention/>



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**WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS**

If you have new neighbors, tell Jill Mowbray. If you are a new neighbor- welcome! Please tell Jill you're here so that one of her committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Jill Mowbray (703-865-8368, [bjm820@hotmail.com](mailto:bjm820@hotmail.com))



**CONDOLENCES**

The Ravensworth Farm community extends condolences to the family of John Hawthorn, original owner on Queensberry Avenue, on his death over the summer.



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in The *Farmer* at no cost to Ravensworth Farm residents. Classified ads may be placed by sending them to [rfcfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcfarmer@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*.

<b>FOR SALE</b>	Three Caps bobbleheads and two t-shirts: Sell the lot for \$75 - Troy Brower, Matt Hendrix (with t-shirt), Jeff Schultz (with t-shirt). Call Don H. after 7pm at 703-321-7186.
<b>FOR SALE</b>	Misc. Caps/Nats items- Sell the LOT for \$25, Nats (WB Mason), Tractor-Trailer in the box HO Series truck, Caps (new in bag) Jersey, Thermo-lined lunch bags, foam pucks, Caps vinyl tote/backpack. Call Don H. after 7pm at 703-321-7186.
<b>FOR SALE</b>	Heavy punching bag with hardware to hang from overhead fixture with pair of boxing gloves. Sell the LOT for \$30. Call Don H. after 7pm at 703-321-7186
<b>SERVICES</b>	Tyler Crum - leaf removal, mulching, planting, fertilizing, snow removal, exterior paint or stain. You can call or text me at 703-966-4115 to set up an appointment. I live in the neighborhood and have references here.
<b>SERVICES</b>	Dana Gleich - Ravensworth ES teacher, available for after-school tutoring. All subjects. Email <a href="mailto:dmgleich@fcps.edu">dmgleich@fcps.edu</a> .
<b>HELP DC HOMELESS</b>	Usable clothing and shoes, blankets, canned foods, etc., collected by a charitable foundation for the winter needs of homeless folks in D.C. Call for free pickups 703703-321-9268. For details, visit <a href="http://www.Kassirfoundation.org">www.Kassirfoundation.org</a> .
<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 ONLY on Saturday mornings.

## **FIVE CAR THINGS TO CHECK BEFORE WINTER ARRIVES**

With winter weather just around the corner (sorry!), here's a quick checklist to get your car ready for the cold to come.

**Tires** – Give them a once-over for wear and tire pressure (they can lose pressure in the cold). If you'll need snow tires, now is a good time to get them.

**Wipers** – Hard or worn wipers are a danger in bad weather. Think they can handle the snow/hail/road salt/miscellaneous debris they'll soon be facing? If not, replace them.

**Fluids** – Top up your windshield washer fluid and flush and refill your car's coolant system.

**Battery** – Check that your car's electrical system is properly charged. The last thing you want in the dead of winter is a dead battery.

**Heating** – Make sure your heating system and window defroster are working properly. You'll thank us when the mercury drops.



If you live in a cold climate, remember to put the ice scraper, floor mats and the rest of your winter supplies back in the car.

courtesy of GEICO at

<https://www.geico.com/information/publications/newsletter/2013/fall-car-fixes/>

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Ravensworth Golden Ravens  
Community Picnics and Yard Sales  
Christmas and Easter Special Activities for Everyone!

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**www.cofchrist-cbmc.org**

## **EVENTS**

Something to add? Email [RFCAFarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:RFCAFarmer@ravensworthfarm.org) or call 703-321-8757 to add to the calendar of events.

Dec. 9 - 8pm - **A Christmas Carol** in support of Navy Safe Harbor Foundation, The Little Theatre of Alexandria, tickets at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

Dec. 13 - **Animal Tracking at Lake Accotink Park**, \$, registration required

Dec. 11-13 - 6pm - **Christmas by Candlelight Concerts** at Immanuel Bible Church. Free but tickets required.

Dec. 13 - 4-8pm- **Bethlehem Walk** at Parkwood Baptist (Braddock & Kings Park Dr). Free

\*\*Dec. 15 - **Christmas Lights Judging** due

Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 - **No School**

Dec. 24 - 5-6pm - **Families With Children Christmas Eve Service** - specially focused on children through middle school age - at Immanuel Bible Church

Dec. 24 - 7:30pm - **Christmas Eve Service at Community of Christ** on Inverchapel Rd

Dec. 25 - **Merry Christmas!**

Jan. 1 - **Happy New Year!**

\*\*Jan. 7 - 7:30pm- **Civic Association Board Meeting/Information** due for Farmer

Jan. 19 - **Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday**

Jan. 30 - Feb. 2 - **Student Holidays** - no school for FCPS

\*\*Feb. 4 - 7:30pm- **Civic Association Board Meeting/Information** due for Farmer

Feb. 16 - **Presidents' Day Holiday**

\*\*Mar. 4 - 7:30pm- **Civic Association Board Meeting/Information** due for Farmer

\*\*Mar. 14 - 8am-Noon - **Neighborhood Clean-up** - bring your large trash items to the POOL for disposal in a big Fairfax County truck

\*\*Mar. 26 - 7:30pm- **Civic Association General Meeting** - Community of Christ church

Mar. 28-Apr. 6 - **FCPS Spring Break**

\*\*Apr. 8 - 7:30pm- **Civic Association Board Meeting/Information** due for Farmer

Apr. 17 - **Student Holiday**

\*\*Apr. 28 - 7:30pm- **Civic Association Board Meeting/Information** due for Farmer

May 25 - **Memorial Day Holiday**

\*\*May 30 - **Last Farmer for the summer**. Hang on to this one!

June 19 - **Last day of school for FCPS**

## **JOIN THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

If you aren't a member, contact Elissa Myers to become a member - 703-321-7590 or [elissa@elissamyers.com](mailto:elissa@elissamyers.com)- or answer the door when your Block Captain comes knocking November through January.

## **MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - BE A BLOCK CAPTAIN**

Block captains deliver pre-paid Directory orders and sign up new Civic Association members and deliver Directories on the spot. Forty-eight of your neighbors were block captains last year. However, many streets didn't have block captains. Sign up for a block near you or be adventurous and visit the other side of the neighborhood! Contact Elissa Myers to be a block captain- 703-321-7590 or [elissa@elissamyers.com](mailto:elissa@elissamyers.com)

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## **HIRING A CONTRACTOR**

*Editor's Note: This is the second of two articles Detective Loesch and Officer Frey of West Springfield District Station's Crime Prevention Section requested that the Civic Association share with the Ravensworth community.*

Home improvements can enhance your home's value and comfort, but choosing the wrong contractor can make the process frustrating and expensive. The wrong contractor can leave you with shoddy work and a poor outcome that you'll need to correct. A few precautions can help you locate a reputable contractor and minimize these kinds of problems

### **Quick Tips: Hiring a Contractor**

- Seek referrals.
- Solicit bids from at least 3 contractors.
- Be wary of "too good to be true" proposals.
- Research the contractor for previous complaints.
- Insist on a written contract that outlines your project and includes starting and completion dates.
- Review all documents before you sign them, including contracts, warranties, and plans.
- Make sure there are no blank spaces on anything you sign.
- Insist upon a written warranty on all materials and work.
- Secure building permits (if necessary) before starting the project and identify the contractor on the application.
- Withhold final payment until the project is completed and inspected.
- Secure a contractor's affidavit that all subcontractors and material suppliers have been paid before making final payment.
- Report any problems to the appropriate licensing board.

### **Locating a Contractor**

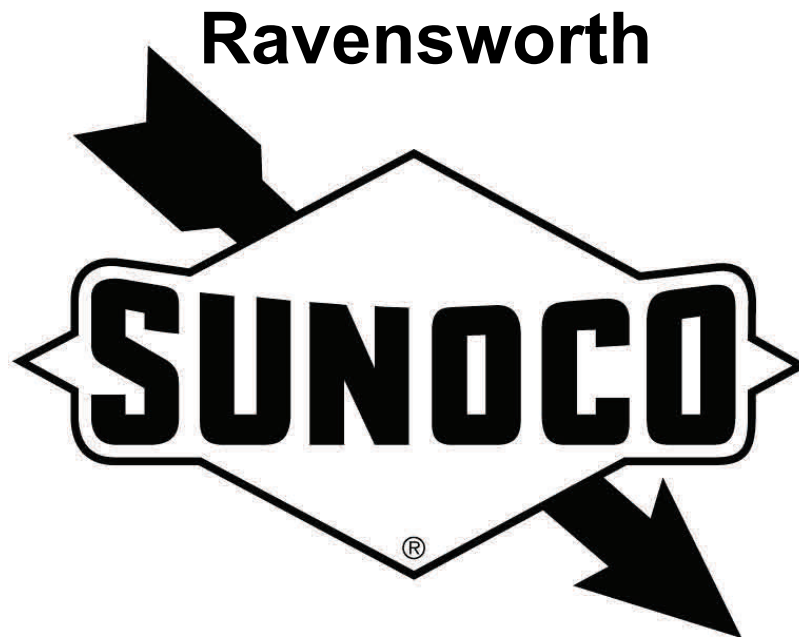
Avoid contractors who use aggressive, high-pressure tactics to scare you into working with them. Decline unsolicited pitches from contractors who are "just in the neighborhood," use overly-friendly sales pitches, or quote you a price too good to be true. Comparison shop. Obtain bids from three contractors and ask for three references from each. Ask neighbors, friends, or relatives who have recently completed a home improvement project for their recommendations. The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR), which licenses contractors, provides information about specific contractors, including their addresses, length of time licensed, and whether they've been the subject of DPOR disciplinary action for violation of DPOR rules. DPOR does not investigate unethical business practices. Visit the DPOR website or call the DPOR at 804-367-8500. To learn if a complaint has been filed by a Fairfax County resident against a contractor, search the complaint history files of the Consumer Affairs Branch.

### **Hiring a Contractor**

Always ask the contractor for a copy of his contractor's license from the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. Verify the license and contact information via the DPOR website or by calling the DPOR at 804-367-8500. Any contractor seeking work through home solicitation also must carry a solicitor license issued by the Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services (DCCS).

Ask the contractor for his current liability insurance policy. Verify with the contractor's insurance agent that the policy is still in effect and covers your type of project.

Some types of work require a permit. Call the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' Permits Branch at 703-324-1555, TTY 711, to determine whether a permit is necessary. The Permits Branch also can provide information on each contractor's licensing and disciplinary status.



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*Con't from Pg. 17*

Don't rely on verbal agreements. Ask the contractor you've selected to prepare a written contract that includes, at a minimum, the contractor's name, street address (not a P.O. box number), license number, a description of the work to be performed (including clean-up) and timetable, the materials to be used, subcontractor names, if any, starting and completion dates, warranty provisions, and a payment schedule based on completion of specific stages of the job.

Read and understand the contract before you sign it. If you don't understand it, consult an attorney. Never rely on the salesperson to read or explain the contract to you. Verify that all oral promises have been put in writing. Make sure all blanks are filled in before signing.

### **Payment**

Con artists and fly-by-night operators typically insist on a large down payment or that you pay in cash before work is done. Once they have the money, they may never return. Your down payment should be as little as you can negotiate with the contractor, but typically no more than 25-30 percent of the total cost. Pay by credit card, not cash. Don't allow payments to get ahead of the work.

Withhold the final payment until the entire project is finished and inspected and you receive a contractor's affidavit affirming that all subcontractors and suppliers have been paid. You don't want to have a mechanic's placed against your property if you've paid the contractor, but he hasn't paid the subcontractors and suppliers.

## **NEVER TOO YOUNG FOR STROKE**

Univ. Fla. Health Science Center & Shands Healthcare 29 Sep 2014

Unless you're a senior citizen, and perhaps even if you are, you probably think you're too young to have a stroke. You're not. Stroke is on the rise worldwide in people age 64 and younger, as a 2013 overview study of more than 119 scientific studies showed. The truth is, stroke can happen to anyone.

There are two main causes of stroke. One is a clot in a blood vessel inside or leading to the brain, which blocks blood and oxygen from nourishing the organ. This type of stroke is called an ischemic stroke. A hemorrhagic stroke occurs when a blood vessel that feeds the brain bursts.

According to the American Stroke Association, most strokes are caused by clots.

Other experts say young stroke patients have higher rates of stroke caused by hemorrhage than elderly patients do. The root of these hemorrhages and clots can vary by age. In elderly patients, high blood pressure and cholesterol are often to blame. Younger stroke victims are more likely than seniors to have a stroke caused by inherited disease affecting the heart or circulatory system. Sadly, that doesn't mean the results will be different. Stroke can cause serious disability, regardless of age. Many people die from stroke, and those who survive can suffer problems with speech, movement, vision, memory and swallowing ... along with other serious issues.

Keeping your heart and vascular system healthy is the best way to avoid stroke. In addition to eating well, exercising frequently and not smoking, that also means regular checkups to keep tabs on your heart and vascular health. If you have a disease that could raise your risk, heed your doctor's instructions to help you stay in the clear.



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## **SPRINGFIELD TOWN CENTER OPEN**

The new town center, which opened on October 17, heralds a new Springfield renaissance.

What used to be the old Springfield Mall now boasts 1.3 million square feet in upscale stores, restaurants and entertainment.

The entire almost 80-acre site will eventually become home to mixed use development with more than 2,200 apartments, offices, entertainment and, of course, shopping.

<http://www.fcrevit.org/otherprojects/springfieldmall.htm>



## **GOT BUGS?**

Identify them at <http://www.InsectIdentification.org>.

## **MOMS IN PRAYER GROUP**

Several moms in the neighborhood meet weekly to pray for their children, schools, teachers and staff. If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact Sara Ortiz at (703)321-8757 or go to the website <http://www.momsinprayer.org/>

## **"GEM" REVIEWS**

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](mailto:rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org). Thanks for sharing!

## **FAIRFAX SCHOOLS DRAMA**

If you're a fan of middle school and high school theater, or just enjoy a good show without the high ticket prices, check out [www.fcpsdrama.com](http://www.fcpsdrama.com) for dates and shows for most Fairfax County schools' productions.

## **RAVENSWORTH FARM PLAYGROUP**

If you have preschool and younger elementary children, be sure to join the Ravensworth Playgroup Facebook page to find out where and when other Ravensworth Farm families are heading out and to swap tips and kid gear.

## **RAVENSWORTH BABYSITTING CO-OP**

If you have children ranging in age from baby to younger elementary, you may need the Babysitting Co-op for no-cost, no-guilt babysitting swaps. Join the co-op through sponsorship by a current co-op member. Contact Cathy Riedel or any other co-op member for more information or to attend the next meeting.



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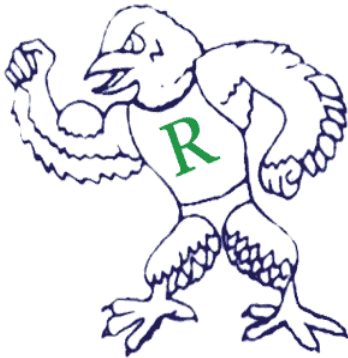


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