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RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

May 2018

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

Issue 6

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Friends, Farmers, Neighbors:

Thanks again to everyone who helped put the new message boards up at the neighborhood entrances. And thanks to everyone who helped with the Accotink Creek watershed cleanup on April 7. And thanks to those who helped beautify the entrances with improved landscaping.

As I have written and said many times, I thoroughly enjoy giving recognition to those who deserve it, and we have many neighbors who deserve our consideration and appreciation. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to recognize three outstanding neighbors each year at our Farmer Awards ceremony, which will take place at the Fourth Annual Ravensworth Farm BBQ on August 4, 2018. Put it on your calendar now.

The annual BBQ will take place at the pool, and everyone is invited. This is the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association's premier annual event, and last year's was outstanding. There will be great food, great company, and great fun. What I mean by "great food" is GREAT FOOD. And by "great company" I mean the opportunity to visit with your beloved neighbors and the opportunity to meet even more lovable neighbors.

I am also glad to express my gratitude to the Ravensworth Farm Pool for building an effective partnership

Con't Pg. 3

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, May 12th

8:00 am to 12 pm

**Ravensworth Farm Swimming Pool
Parking Lot**

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

Also, No Reservations!

Food & Drink on Sale!

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Sponsored by Green Thumb Garden Club

Saturday, May 12th

9 am to 1 pm

**Home-Grown Plants and Shrubs
5223 Inverchapel Road**

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	Allan Robertson	703-627-0219	prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1st Vice President	Scott Houghton	703-321-7320	vp1@ravensworthfarm.org
2nd Vice President	James Walkinshaw	703-314-1473	vp2@ravensworthfarm.org
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151	recsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Corresponding Secretary	John Ritchie		corsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Treasurer	Phil Baxter		treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Public Service (Streets / Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-209-2675	rfnw@ravensworthfarm.org
Schools & Education	Jill Mowbray	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.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	James Walkinshaw	703-314-1473	james.walkinshaw@gmail.com
Hospitality	Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063	hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
New Neighbors	Pam Ryan	703-447-6283	pkryan74@gmail.com
Directory	Coordinator Advertising	Stephen Beste VACANT	703-321-9110 directory@ravensworthfarm.org
<i>Farmer</i>	Editor Preparation Printing, Flyers Distribution Advertising	Sara Ortiz Susan Deyampert Laura Asiello James Walkinshaw VACANT	703-321-8757 703-321-3150 703-321-7840 703-314-1473 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org jfasiello@aol.com james.walkinshaw@gmail.com ads@ravensworthfarm.org
Neighborhood Watch	Tom Terry	703-209-2675	rfnw@ravensworthfarm.org
Community Organizations			
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Nicole Ferrara		president@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Rob Hannam	703-321-7398	
Green Thumb Garden Club	Ursula Schuttinga	703-321-3535	
Lancaster Fresh Community Supported Agriculture	Jennifer Auble	703-922-9353	jenmarzouk@yahoo.com
Golden Ravens	Joan Crofford	703-321-7809	

Association Meetings & Deadlines 2017-18

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	<i>Farmer</i> DELIVERY	EVENTS
April				28	
May	2	2	3	Jun. 2	24 – Civic Assoc Mtg
June				2	BBQ – Aug. 4 @ Pool

General and Board Meetings and Events are held at Ravensworth Elementary School on Nutting Drive unless otherwise noted. Meetings are 7:30pm unless otherwise announced.

Con't from Pg. 1

with the Civic Association and for opening their facilities for the entire neighborhood to enjoy. We have some amazing assets in Ravensworth Farm, and the pool is particularly amazing.

Before I close, I should give an update on the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Revision. On April 30, 2018, there will be a community meeting at Lake Braddock Secondary School to discuss the issues surrounding the future of Lake Accotink. Supervisors Cook and McKay are hosting.

Finally, it was recently discovered that the loss of Lake Accotink will actually cost more money than dredging will. Lake Accotink traps nearly half of the sediment that washes into it from upstream, and the Clean Water Act requires Fairfax County to further reduce the sediment load of Accotink Creek.

Based upon the cost and effectiveness of Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services storm water management projects, the annual Lake Accotink sedimentation, and Chesapeake Bay Foundation best management practices, the non-profit, Save Lake Accotink, has determined that the hidden cost of losing the lake will be between \$233,000,000.00 and \$381,000,000.00 over 20 years. The estimated 20 year cost of dredging Lake Accotink and adding a forebay is \$117,375,000.00. Failing to pay the high cost of dredging now will eventually cost Fairfax County at no less than \$116,000,000.00.

There is still time to complete the Fairfax County Park Authority's Lake Accotink survey, send your comments to the Fairfax County Park Authority, sign the online petition, and contact the Board of Supervisors. Links the survey and the petition can be found at savelakeaccotink.org. Note, RFCA neither sponsors nor supports Save Lake Accotink.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fourth Annual Ravensworth Farm Civic Association BBQ!

Truly yours,
Allan Robertson, President of the Board
Ravensworth Farm Civic Association
prez@ravensworthfarm.org

RUN FOR RAVENSWORTH - APRIL 27

Run 4 Ravensworth, the biggest fundraiser of the year for Ravensworth Elementary School PTA, is happening now. Students have until May 18 to collect pledges and donations. Students will run laps of approximately a tenth of a mile during the 20 minutes allotted to their grade on April 27. They will collect pledges and donations for each lap they complete. On average, students in 2017 completed 16 laps. The most laps run by a single student in 2017 was 27.

One hundred percent of the money donated goes to the PTA. The funds are used to pay for school-wide online learning licenses, author visits, new library books, special assemblies, field trips, workshops, and more.

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club of Ravensworth met at the home of Margaret Kinder in April. A presentation on the nesting of birds and their habits was presented by Master Gardener and member Tatiana Lisle. 2018 is the 'Year of the Bird' as designated by the Audubon Society.

The annual Plant Sale will be held on May 12 at the corner of Inverchapel Rd and Drayton Ln. This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance your gardens with locally-grown plants and beautify our community. The Garden of the Season Judging will be finalized on May 15.



New members are always welcome. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month from March through December- a change from previous years in order to enjoy the 'garden season' and avoid winter months. Please call Agnes Hit at 703-321-4808 for membership information.

PAY CIVIC ASSOCIATION DUES ONLINE

Haven't seen your block captain yet? No problem. Go to <http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org> to join the Civic Association. You can pay via PayPal or credit card. All Civic Association members will receive a free copy of the Ravensworth Farm Community Directory. Civic Association dues are \$15 and cover the cost of activities ranging from entrance beautification to the Community BBQ, as well as publication of The Ravensworth Farmer.



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COUNTY LEASH LAW REMINDER

Please remember that, per County code, dogs must be on a leash or otherwise restricted unless they are in an area designated as an off-leash or dog exercise area. Unfortunately for even the best-behaved dog, Ravensworth Farm's sidewalks, streets, and front yards do not qualify as designated off-leash areas.

Section 41.1-2-4. Unrestricted dogs prohibited; leash law.

(a) No dog shall run unrestricted, as defined in Section 41.1-1-1, in the County. **Any person who is the owner of a dog found unrestricted in the County shall be in violation of this Section.** This Section shall not apply to any person who uses a dog under his direct supervision while lawfully hunting, while engaged in a supervised formal obedience training class or show, during formally sanctioned field trials, while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by Fairfax County designated by resolution of the Board of Supervisors as an off-leash dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority and designated by resolution of the Fairfax County Park Authority as an off-leash or dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area, leased, controlled, or operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and designated by resolution of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board as an off-leash or dog exercise area, or if a dog is a service animal whose handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). It is a violation of this Section for any owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed into custody of any person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of restricting such dog.



(b) **Any dog found unrestricted in violation of subsection (a) shall be impounded, except that if the rightful owner of the dog can be immediately ascertained and located, then that owner shall be allowed to have custody of the animal but shall be subject to issuance of a summons for violation of this Section.** (26-04-41.1; 10-11-41.1.)

Here's the reference link

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/sites/health/files/assets/documents/pdf/animal-control-ordinance.pdf>

Here's the county link for **"10 Tips for Responsible Dog Ownership"**

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/10-tips-for-responsible-dog-ownership/>

BOY SCOUT TROOP 991 NEWS

Come out and meet Troop 991 Scouts on Saturday, May 12th, and our new Scoutmaster Edward Haggerty, as we host the annual Community Yard Sale. The Scouts will be on hand if you need a hand moving or unloading your own sale items. The Scouts will also be selling freshly grilled burgers and hot dogs and other snacks and beverages to satisfy your taste buds. The Community Yard Sale is one of many regular service activities for which the Scouts volunteer.

While service is one of the reasons for joining the Scouts, another reason is that it is just plain fun. Last month, several Scouts participated in the Merit Badge Jamboree, held at Lee High School, earning badges in Communications, Citizen of the Nation and other badges they need for advancement. Other Scouts spent a few nights away camping down in Madison, Virginia. Troop 991 is Scout-led, and sponsored by the Ravensworth Elementary PTA. We live and scout in your neighborhood!

Boy Scouts: 6th – 12th grade boys. Visit us Wednesday nights - 7:30pm @ Ravensworth Elementary. Learn more about us at: <http://www.troop991.com/>. Contact Scoutmaster Edward J. Haggerty @ 703-622-5831 or edwardhaggerty1@me.com if you are interested... Or come by and see for yourself what you're missing!

COMMUNITY MEETING FOR LAKE ACCOTINK INPUT - APRIL 30

A community meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 30, 2018, to discuss options for the management of Lake Accotink. The Park Authority will join Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay to gather public input in developing a vision for how Lake Accotink Park will serve the community for years to come. Members of the community are invited to Lake Braddock Secondary School, at 9200 Burke Lake Road in Burke, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for discussion and to voice their opinions.

Since Lake Accotink was created in 1940, the increasing flow of sediment from upstream has complicated management of the lake. The lake has been dredged three times in the past to maintain sufficient water depth to support recreational use of the lake; but, the time span between dredges continues to decrease while the cost to dredge continues to rise. The accumulated sediment is reaching a critical point once again. There are five options under discussion.

Community input regarding the preferred method of managing Lake Accotink will continue to be accepted through May 28, 2018. If you are unable to join us at this meeting, the presentation will be shared online after the meeting with an opportunity to provide your comments. You can always find presentations and comment summaries from previous community meetings on the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Revision webpage.

Please feel free to share this invite with anyone you know who might be interested in the project. If you have questions please contact Gayle Hooper, Project Manager, at 703-324-8741 or by email at Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

UPCOMING POOL EVENTS

Note: Pool memberships are already on sale. Save \$50 by registering before May 5. Please contact Jennifer Auble, Membership Director, for any questions at 703-922-9353 or membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com. See you at the pool for the events below and other fun!

May 5th Cinco De Mayo at the POOL: festivities begin at 6:30 PM. Bring a dish or dessert and celebrate with the entire community of friends with food, drinks (BYOB), and music. Adults only event.

May 26th Opening Day at Ravensworth Pool. The first day is open for the entire community. Join us for a fun day filled with swimming and sun. Our new water mushroom is a hit in the young children's pool! Don't forget to join the pool while you are there.

June 15th Elementary Night (rain date June 16). DJ, Dinner, and Drink included with ticket. Open to ALL Rising Kindergarteners to 2018's 6th grade grads. No younger or older siblings, please. An adult chaperone must be present. Volunteers welcome. \$8 admission. 6pm-9pm

June 1st Teen Night with a Rain Date June 8th. Open to all Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers (7th grade thru current HS grads ONLY). DJ, food, and fun! \$10 admission. Lock-in 8 pm to 12 am.

July 4th Annual Pool Party (for members and military families only) from 12pm-3pm. Cake, music, and activities galore! Belly Flop/Splash Contests, and Military Raffle. Non-member military families are also welcome to come with a \$10 family admission (need to show military ID).

HAVE FUN WITH SOFTBALL'S GOLDEN GIRLS

The Golden Girls is a senior women's slow pitch softball organization in Northern Virginia. It offers league play twice a week and has traveling tournament teams. There are nearly 140 members playing at various softball skill levels in the league and/or tournament teams. Learning new skills, fitness and good sportsmanship are stressed—all while having fun.

The minimum age is 40 to play on the four-team league playing Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings in Vienna from April through July and September through October. For more details, visit www.goldengirls.org.

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Ravensworth Resident

THREE MONEY-SAVING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE LIBRARY

By Mary Mulrenan, Fairfax County Public Library

We are all about saving you money in April. Anyone who borrows books (or reads magazines and newspapers) from the library instead of buying them, knows how quickly savings can add up. But here are three additional methods to save you money in 2018.

Pick Up A Free LED Bulb

Stop by selected branches in April and May for up to five free LED Lightbulbs. Energy Action Fairfax is giving away one LED Lightbulb for free to families in Fairfax County at selected library branches in April and May. You also can bring in up to four incandescent or compact florescent (CFL) bulbs for replacement LED bulbs, while supplies last. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, you can save \$75 a year by replacing your five most frequently used bulbs with an LED bulb.

The giveaway will occur at five selected branches at different dates and times. The closest one to Ravensworth Farm is Wednesday, April 25, 4 - 6 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library 7001 Little River Tpke., Annandale, tel: 703-256-3800.

Borrow a Thermal Camera

Another way you can save money is by insulating your home. On average, \$200 to \$400 per year could be going to waste as a result of drafty doors, windows or other air leaks, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. To help you find any leaks in your home, borrow a thermal camera from the library. The cameras are easy to use (and work with many versions of popular smartphones). To reserve a thermal camera, go to the library's catalog from www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library and search for "thermal camera." Learn more about energy efficiency at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energy/energyactionfairfax.

Take Free Online Classes Through Lynda.com

Paying for a class, especially those in technology, can cost a pretty penny, but the library recently acquired Lynda.com for libraries which offers over 6,000 online courses geared toward business, technology and creative fields, with new courses added weekly. To browse Lynda.com for professional or personal skills enhancement or for fun (banjo playing anyone?), go the library web page at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library and search for Lynda.

[Editor's Note: I put a "hold" to borrow one of the four Android thermal cameras in April 2017. As of April 2018, I am at position 52 in a hold queue of 233. If you're nice to me, I'll loan it to you in three years when I get to check it out.]

WALK WITH US

Get great exercise while enjoying yourself. The Burke/West Springfield Walking Club of the Senior Center Without Wall at the Pinn Center provides a way to meet and connect with new people and also get a great workout. The club walks at Lake Barton three times a week and at Springfield Towne Center. For more information, email walkingseniors@gmail.com.



ADVERTISE IN THE RAVENSWORTH FARMER

Reach more than 850 homes with news of your services or merchandise seven times over the next year. Contact Sara Ortiz at ads@ravensworthfarm.org for ad sizes, rates, and information on permanent ads in the body of The Ravensworth Farmer. If you prefer a month-to-month insert in The Farmer so you can change it each month, provide 900 copies of your flyer and a check for \$35 to Laura Asiello before each month's flyer due date (see inside front cover). You can reach Laura at 703-321-7840 to coordinate drop-off.

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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 of your neighbors volunteered last year. However, many streets didn't have active block captains so membership was down- resulting in a significant reduction in budget for Civic Association activities. 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.

NEW NEIGHBORS COMMITTEE

Pam Ryan is still looking for volunteers to join the committee. However, she would like to thank Cindy Cho and Ashton Streavig for volunteering and joining the committee. They have been a great help!

Please e-mail Pam at pkryan74@gmail.com if you would like to help or please let Elissa Myers know if you would like to be a block captain. (You can do both!) You don't have to be a long-time resident of Ravensworth Farm to greet new neighbors or be a block captain. A friendly face and a few minutes a week are enough.



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in The *Farmer* at no cost to Ravensworth Farm residents. Classified ads may be placed by sending them to rcaf farmer@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*.

YARD SALE	the weekends of April 28/29 and May 5/6 at 8108 Hatteras Lane. Toys, bikes, some furniture, garden equipment and miscellaneous.
FREE	Complete set of 35mm photo slide metal cartridges for Kodak Carousel optical projector. Call 703-321-9268.
FOR SALE	BEEF – Purebred or mixed Angus steaks, roasts, brisket, ground beef; taking orders until May 5 for delivery Memorial Day weekend. You can choose thickness and weight for some steaks and roasts. Straight from the Kelley Angus Farm in the Ozarks. Call or email Sara Kelley Ortiz at 703-321-8757 or SLKOrtiz@global.t-bird.edu .
HELP DC HOMELESS	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 www.Kassirfoundation.org .
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.

RAVENSWORTH BABYSITTING CO-OP

If you have children in the baby to younger elementary years, 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 Marcie Winitz at marciewinitz@hotmail.com or any other co-op member for more information or to attend the next meeting.

FARMER DELIVERY REMINDER

The Ravensworth Farmer may not be delivered to homes that compromise the safety of the scout troop that delivers it. This includes homes that may have loose or unfriendly pets, hazardous walkways, or other impediments to safe delivery by the scouts. The Farmer is always available for viewing one week after home delivery on the Ravensworth Farm web site, <http://www.ravensworthfarm.org>.

KIDS CORNER

Kids' Corner is a place where Ravensworth kids 18 and under can have their writing published for all of Ravensworth Farm to read. Send your submission of 500 or fewer words to Ravensworth.Farmer@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name and where you live (your address won't be published). All genres appropriate for a general audience are welcome.



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Sunday Services:

10:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

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Parents of Preschoolers (POPS) group meets monthly during the school year.

Aging with Spirit group meets alternate Fridays.

Join us for Sunday School (all ages), worship, and small groups for Bible study, theological discussion, contemplative prayer, fellowship, and service.

Check out our website, ravensworthbaptist.org, or find us on Facebook. Questions? Call 703-941-4113, or e-mail rbc@ravensworthbaptist.org.



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EVENTS

Something to add? Email RFCAFarmer@ravensworthfarm.org or call 703-321-8757 to add to the calendar of events.

Apr 27 – **Run for Ravensworth at Ravensworth Elementary**

Apr 30-May 4 – **Teacher Appreciation Week** at Ravensworth Elementary

** May 2 – **RFCA Board Meeting**, school, 7:30pm

May 4 – **Run for Ravensworth rain date**

May 5 – **Job Seekers Seminar**, 9am-3pm, \$15, register at <https://immanuelbible.church/stewardship/job-seekers>, contact Steve Mackie at careers@ibc.church

May 5 - **Cinco De Mayo at the POOL**, 6:30pm, bring a dish or dessert. Adults only, members and non-members.

++May 5 – **Early-Bird Pool Discount Ends**

May 9 - **The Legislators Forum**, featuring Braddock District's state legislators. Contact Braddock District Supervisor's office.

May 12 – **Garden Club Plant Sale** – 5223 Inverchapel Road, just down from the Pool and the Yard Sale

May 12 – 8-Noon – **Community-wide Yard Sale, Pool parking lot, locations first-come, first served, bring your own tables

May 16 & 17 – 5-10pm – **School Fundraiser at Ledo Pizza**, Tell Ledo your purchase is in support of Ravensworth Elementary

++May 19 – 12-3pm – **Swim & Dive Team Picnic** at the pool; meet the coaches, buy your suits, be first in the pool

** May 22 – **Civic Association General Meeting**, school, 7:30pm

++May 26 – **Pool Opens**, free admission for first day, join the pool here if you haven't already

May 28 – **Memorial Day**, no school

++May 29 – **Swim Team Practice Begins**, after school until June 18

May 30 – **Parent-Teacher Association General Meeting**, Ravensworth School

++June 1 – **Teen Night at the Pool** – 7th grade grads through 2018 HS grads ONLY, \$10, Lock-in 8pm - midnight

June 3 – **Cardboard Boat Regatta** – 11am, Lake Accotink Park Marina

June 9 – **History Walk & Talk** – led by Ravensworth's own Mary Lipsey, call Jim Hickey at 703-321-8535 for details

June 15 – **Last Day of School** for Fairfax County

++June 15 – **Elementary Night at the Pool**, rising kindergarten to 2018's 6th grade graduates, adult chaperone must be present. \$8, 6-9pm (rain date June 16)

++June 18 – **Morning Swim Team Practice** begins

June 25-29 – **Vacation Bible School at Immanuel Bible Church**, Camp Gonnawannasee, 9:30-Noon for ages 4 through entering 3rd grade; Jump!, 7-9pm for entering 4th-entering 6th grade (\$15 early bird, \$20 after June 1), immanuelbible.church/children/vbs

++ July 4 – **Pool Party** free for members and non-member military families \$10/family, Noon-3pm, Belly Flop/Splash contests, Military Raffle, Cake, Music, Activities

July 30 – Aug 3 - **Vacation Bible School**; Kids Under Construction; Rising K-Rising 4th Grade. It's free and fun! Register at: www.cornerstoneEfree.org/vbs

Aug 4 – **Civic Association Community-Wide BBQ, Pool, time TBA, all Ravensworth Farm residents, even if not a pool member.

LISTEN TO THE LOCKSMITH FOR KEYS TO A SAFE HOME

Source: The Golden Gazette, February 2018, published by Fairfax County

Your home is the one place where you should be safe. Secure from uninvited visitors who want to steal your belongings and possibly cause you bodily harm. The locks on your doors are your first source of home security so it's important that they are in proper working condition. If they fail to operate correctly the bad guys or even a hard wind could be coming through your doors.

As a licensed locksmith making daily visits to homes in Northern Virginia, I'm shocked at some of the things I see, such as: million-dollar homes with nine-dollar locks on the doors, locks and deadbolts that don't fit into their strikes correctly, loose or missing screws, locks installed upside down, and doors that don't close properly. While some of

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Con't from Pg. 17

these problems can be easily identified and remedied by the homeowner with nothing more than a screw driver, others may need the attention of a professional.

Here's a list of common problems and possible solutions:

My door won't lock. The most frequent reason is the door is sagging in the frame preventing the latches and deadbolts from going into their respective holes in the strikes. Check for loose or missing screws on the hinges, especially the top hinge. Also check to see if the latch and deadbolt operate with the door open, if they don't it's time for a repair or replacement.

Nothing happens when I turn the key on my deadbolt. Some older style deadbolts have pieces that control the bolt movement that fall apart internally. In some cases this can be repaired but replacement may be necessary.

My key won't come out. Most likely something on the back of the lock cylinder has come loose preventing the key from sliding out.

My key won't go in the lock. In many cases the internal parts of the lock cylinder are dry, dirty or corroded. Try a shot of WD-40 in the key hole to get things moving again. There may also be something in the key hole blocking the key.

Key Control Do you know who has the keys to your home? Previous owners (or their friends), contractors, dog walkers, caregivers, and neighbors are just a few who may have access to your home. If you haven't had your home re-keyed, you stand the chance of having an unwanted guest. The process is simple and all licensed locksmiths can change the lock tumblers/pins and make new unique keys that only you have. If possible, make all the locks in your home operate with the same key so you're not fumbling through a key ring trying to find the right one.

Another method is to have one lock on a door keyed differently to allow someone in. If they lose the key or you no longer want them to have access you only have to re-key or change one lock, not the whole house.... to be continued in next issue.



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