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RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

December 2018

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

My Fellow Farmers:

The days are getting shorter, the nights are getting longer, and the temperatures are dropping. This time of year, some of us start to lose energy and even get depressed. Personally, I do not need a change of season to get me discouraged. That is why I appreciate the holidays. Thanksgiving and Christmas turn my heart and mind to family, friends, and all the great things I enjoy in this wonderful world we inhabit. My letter in this edition of "The Farmer" is dedicated to an expression of my gratitude to this community and my beloved neighbors*.

First and foremost, I am grateful for the privilege and pleasure it is to serve as President of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association. My tenure has been punctuated by innumerable opportunities to witness members of this great community selflessly giving of their time, talents, energy, and resources to improve the lives of you and me in ways big and small.

I am especially grateful for every chance I have to meet with, work with, laugh with, and thoroughly enjoy the company of my fellow Civic Association Board Members, past and present. Scott Houghton, James Walkinshaw, Ginger Rogers, and John Ritchie are some of the finest people I have ever worked with. It is without shame or reservation that I admit I am the weakest link on this team.

Con't Pg. 3

HOLIDAY LIGHTS JUDGING



The Civic Association's Holiday Lights Judging will be December 16. Meet at 5pm at the home of Elissa Myers or contact Scott Houghton at 703-321-7320 or vp1@ravensworthfarm.org to get in on the fun of checking out the lights and the vote-tallying party afterward. Results will be posted on the Ravensworth Farm website and Facebook pages and in the February edition of The Ravensworth Farmer.

**YOUR CIVIC
ASSOCIATION
DUES ARE DUE!**

**PAY ONLINE AT:
PAY.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 | 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 | VACANT | | corsec@ravensworthfarm.org |
| Treasurer | John Ritchie | | treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org |

STANDING COMMITTEES

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------------|
| 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 | 703-622-1563 | |

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 | Sara Ortiz | 703-321-8757 rfcafarm@ravensworthfarm.org |
| | Preparation | Susan Deyampert | 703-321-3150 |
| | Advertising, Flyers | John Ritchie | 703-321-7840 treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org |
| | Distribution Advertising | James Walkinshaw VACANT | 703-314-1473 james.walkinshaw@gmail.com ads@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 |

Association Meetings & Deadlines 2018-19

| MONTH | BOARD MEETING | <i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE | FLYER DEADLINE | <i>Farmer</i> DELIVERY | EVENTS |
|----------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|--|
| December | 5 | n/a | n/a | n/a | 15-20—Holiday Lights Judging |
| January | 9 | 9 | 10 | Feb.9 or 16 | 17—Civic Assoc Mtg |
| February | 6 | 6 | 7 | Mar. 2 | |
| March | 6 | 6 | 7 | 30 | 21—Civic Assoc Mtg |
| April | 3 | 3 | 4 | May 4 | |
| May | 1 | 8 | 2 | June 1 | 16—Civic Assoc Mtg 18—Yard/Plant Sale |
| Summer | | | | 2 | BBQ—TBA |

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

And then there are all the other community leaders and volunteers, with or without official title, who do so much for all of us. Sara Ortiz, Ruth Hartman, Elissa Myers, Steve Beste, Jim Hickey, Margaret Kinder, Katherine Craig, Ann Newman, Susan Deyampert, Laura Asiello, Terry Powers, Tom Bruce, Tom Mathis, Kevin Joyce, all the block captains, all the leaders and volunteers at the pool, all the leaders and volunteers at the PTA, all the poll workers and volunteers, the Green Thumb Garden Club, the Golden Ravens, the Community of Christ Church, Scout Troops 991 and 1157, everyone at Friends of Lake Accotink Park, everyone at Friends of Accotink Creek, and everyone at Save Lake Accotink*.

It has also been a pleasure getting to know our elected officials and public servants. I am grateful for the work of Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and his staff, Lindsey Smith, Ann Sharp, Marcia Pape, Linda Bufano, Monique Hamm, and Patrick Gooley; Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross; Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay; Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity; Chairman Sharon Bulova; Del. Vivian Watts; Senator Dick Saslaw; Del. Kathy Tran; Fairfax County Park Authority Manager of Park Planning Andrea Dorlester; and many others who have directly served the interests of Ravensworth Farm.

There are also a slew of other community leaders outside Ravensworth Farm I am grateful to have worked with. The leaders of the North Springfield Civic Association, Springfield Civic Association, Kings Park Civic Association, West Springfield Civic Association, Kings Park West Civic Association, Canterbury Woods Civic Association, Braddock District Council, Fairfax Federation, and more.

Reviewing this inexhaustive list, I suppose it must seem like I have spent an obscene amount of time with civic association duties. That is a long list for someone who only started working with the civic association a couple of years ago. It really has not required nearly as much time and energy as it must appear, though. I have never felt overburdened as RFCA President. If I ever did feel my duties were burdensome, that feeling was short-lived and is completely forgotten now.

Con't Pg. 4

Con't from Pg. 3

My heart truly is filled with gratitude for my time and experiences here. And I think it is a shame that there are missed opportunities to get involved with the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association and its activities. I do not want to miss any chance to serve with new people. Please consider how you want to get involved and let me know. If you need any help thinking about it, there is a list of open positions inside this edition of "The Farmer" (pg. 22).

Truly much affection and gratitude,

Allan Robertson
President of the Board
Ravensworth Farm Civic Association

** I sincerely apologize, but it is inevitable that I have failed to name dozens of people who deserve recognition and thanks. If you think you fall into this category, please know that you are very much appreciated. The omission is regrettable. There simply is not enough time and space to thank everyone by name everyone deserving of my thanks. Even if you don't think you fit into this category, if we have had a chance to exchange pleasantries, you almost certainly do fit into this category. **

JOIN BOY SCOUT TROOP 991

Interested in camping, hiking or rifle shooting? Need to hone your leadership skills? Check out Troop 991, a Scout-led Troop in your neighborhood, sponsored by the Ravensworth Elementary PTA. Learn more about us at: <http://www.troop991.com/>. Contact Scoutmaster Ed Haggerty @ 703.622.6831 or Edwardhaggerty1@me.com if you are interested... Or come by and see for yourself what you're missing!



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RAVENSWORTH FARM ELECTION LEGEND ON TV

Ravensworth Farm resident Ruth Hartman was interviewed on Fox 5 news November 3 about her involvement as an elections officer in the Ravensworth precinct because she was about to work her 70th election. After that interview, Ruth did, indeed, work her 70th election on November 6 and plans to return to work her 71st election in 2019.

Ruth has already worked more elections than any other election officer in Fairfax County and she has worked every one of those elections at Ravensworth Elementary School. Ruth isn't sure anyone could catch her record now because, when she started as an election officer, there were sometimes as many as four elections a year. Now it is very unusual to have even three. Ruth served a stint as Chief Election Officer for the Ravensworth Precinct before relinquishing that job to the person who held it before Ravensworth's current Chief, Doddie Cave. Doddie is in the top five for number of elections worked in Fairfax County herself.

Fairfax County woman to work her 70th election as a volunteer poll worker

Posted: Nov 03 2018 12:09am edt; Video Posted: Nov 03 2018 12:08am edt

SPRINGFIELD, Va. - One of the most inspiring stories being told this election season has nothing to do with someone who is looking for your vote. Rather, she is looking to help you vote. Ruth Hartman is about to spend her 70th election working at the polls in Fairfax County. "It doesn't seem that way to me," she laughed.

Hartman worked her very first election back in 1968 at Ravensworth Elementary School in Springfield. In fact, she has worked all 69 of her previous elections there – the same place her kids went to school. Although at first, she didn't want the job. Hartman said her neighbor asked her to help out at the polls, and she only said yes because she was a little lonely after moving to town from Massachusetts. "I had never moved in my life until I moved here, and I tell ya, I was one sorry person," she recalled. "I used to call home and cry all the time. I would call my mother on the phone and cry."

But sometimes, she said, things happen for a reason. Hartman became an award-winning volunteer – working elections, at her local civic association and at Fairfax Hospital too. And while Hartman has dedicated her life to helping others, she said she still feels like she's the one whose benefited the most.

"Keep busy and be with people," she smiled. "That's the key right there." She added, "What do you have if you don't have people, you know? You could be a hermit. What fun would that be?" Hartman said she has no plans to stop working elections anytime soon. Although these days, she only works the ones in November.

Source: <http://www.fox5dc.com/news/local-news/fairfax-county-woman-to-work-her-70th-election-as-a-volunteer-poll-worker>

GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club met at the home of Nancy Jarvie on November 7.

Misty Kuceris from Burke Nursery presented on "Butterfly Gardens- Developing, planting, maintenance thereof to attract greater numbers of butterflies to our area.

Members were given the 2018-19 Garden Club yearbook "Back to Basics". It includes programs for the year, hostesses for each month, the roster of current members and historic information about the Green Thumb Garden Club which was founded in 1966.

Discussion followed about some of our outreach programs. Volunteers signed up to help at the Lincolnia Adult Center in November and December. Also, 40-50 Christmas stockings will again be obtained and filled for the Juvenile Detention Center to be delivered on or about December 15.

For further information or to join the club, which meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month, call Membership Chair Agnes Hite at 703-321-4808.

FALL GARDENS OF THE SEASON

What a treat it was cruising through the neighborhood for Garden of the Season. Judging was challenging, as you'll see with all the 'Honorable Mention' slots filled!

First Place congratulations to

Sandra and James Buratti at 5309 Nutting Drive

Second Place congratulations to

Nanette Marshall and Brian Scott 5406 Nutting Drive

Third Place Congratulations to

Jackie and Bill Perry 8125 Bullock Lane

Honorable Mentions

8002 Gosport

8019 Gosport

8002 Hatteras

5502 Inverchapel

5227 Kepler

5311 Moultrie

5403 Moultrie

5315 Pillow

5504 Queensberry

8145 Sedgewick



RAVENSWORTH RESIDENT RECEIVES ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board has named Green Spring Gardens volunteer Tatiana Lisle the recipient of the 2018 Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award. Lisle was recognized for her work to protect pollinators by managing bees at Green Spring Gardens.

The park beekeeper is also the volunteer organizer of Green Spring's popular Honeybee Day, which is held in conjunction with National Honey Month. Her work as the site's beekeeper ensures beautiful flowers for the park, as well as helping the endangered honeybee.

Praised as a "volunteer extraordinaire," Lisle also works as a children's education instructor and teaches today's youth about watershed education, pollination, horticulture and stewardship. She volunteers as an instructor in adult education programs, is a certified Extension Master Gardener with the Green Spring unit and is an avid birder who assists with species counts at Huntley Meadows Park. In addition, Lisle is a member of the Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) and holds a leadership role on the organization's Board of Directors.

The Sally Ormsby Environmental Stewardship Award was established by the Park Authority Board in 2007 in recognition of Sally B. Ormsby's many years of service as a citizen steward. The award is open to individuals and groups whose actions embody the spirit of environmental stewardship and provide tangible environmental benefits to Fairfax County parks. Lisle will receive the award at the Elly Doyle Park Services and Outstanding Volunteers Award ceremony in November.

For additional information, please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

NEW DOG PARK

The latest addition to dog parks in the area is at Monticello Park at 320 Beverly Drive Alexandria. There is a small off leash dog area along the trail. Additionally, the park features bird watching. During the early morning and in the late evening migrating birds can be seen along the small stream.



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AVOID CHRISTMAS TREE AND DECORATION FIRES

Although Christmas tree fires are not common, when they do occur, they are more likely to be serious. Carefully decorating your home can help make your holidays safer.

Picking the tree

Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the tree

Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.

Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.

Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.

Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.

Lighting the tree

Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use. Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.

Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.

Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.

After Christmas

Get rid of the tree after Christmas. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program. Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

Source: National Fire Protection Association <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Seasonal-fires/Winter-holiday-safety/Christmas-tree-fires>

FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK COMMITTEE LEAD AND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By Mary Keeser, President, FLAP

FLAP is a long-standing community-supported organization dedicated/committed to inspire and sustain a passion for Lake Accotink Park and leisure experiences that enhance quality of life.

We are committed to A. Protect, restore and preserve the natural, historical and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park; B. Promote educational and recreational opportunities; C. Encourage interpretive, educational and cultural programs; D. Promote the community use of the park facilities; and E. Foster respect for the park. Stewardship, Recreation, Fundraising, Special Projects

We have still have a few Committees requiring members and leadership, please let us know if you would like to join FLAP, or lead or sign-up for a committee. contact@flapaccotink.org

1 Membership-Elissa Myers; 2 Community Outreach and Communications - Beverley Rivera; 3 Stewardship Need Leader; 4 Recreation; 5 Fundraising; 6 Special Projects

Mary Keeser
President
FLAP



CARE LETTER CAMPAIGN TO HONOR SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

Help Us Honor Veterans and Deployed Service Men and Women this Holiday Season by Sharing a Card or Letter in Appreciation of their Service and Sacrifices.

November 1, 2018 marks the eighth year that America's Adopt A Soldier will reach out to America to ask for cards of thanks to share with our nation's Service Members who are deployed and Veterans who are in State Veterans Homes and Hospitals.

According to Mary Keeser, America's Adopt A Soldier Founder, "In 2017, over 250,000 care letters, were shared. This year, the goal is to reach over 300,000, which would allow us to send at least four letters to every Veteran in a Veterans Home or Veterans Hospital as well as to our deployed Service Members."

Mary adds, "The cards and letters we receive are drawn or written by a diverse group of individuals, from 3 years-old to the over 100 years- old. From kitchen tables to classrooms, to businesses, to college dorms to faith-based establishments, the pens, pencils, crayons and pieces of paper used to create messages of hope, appreciation, unity and support will have a positive impact. The letters of care are truly the caring pulse of America towards our Service men and women."

CARE LETTERS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH 18 DECEMBER 2018. To participate in the 2018 National Care Letter Campaign, mail your personal written and designed letter or greeting card to America's Adopt A Soldier, 5400 Shawnee Road, Suite #300, Alexandria, VA 22312 For more information visit: www.americasadoptasoldier.org or call 703-278-3718.

HELP PREVENT CRIME AND TERRORIST ATTACKS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

The Fairfax County Police Department joined local authorities to create a new app called "iWatchNova" to collect information on suspicious activity or behavior that could be associated with terrorist or criminal activity.

From the FCPD website: iWatchNOVA facilitates reporting of suspicious activities like possible surveillance or casing operations, people photographing or videotaping critical infrastructure or security checkpoints. The Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center (NVRIC), which covers 18 jurisdictions, then collects, evaluates, analyzes and disseminates this information. Reports through iWatchNOVA are examined to determine if there is a viable threat to the community.

The iWatchNOVA app is free and easy to use on your IOS or Android, with the ability to remain anonymous. The portal is also accessible through their website (<https://iwatchnova.org>). It gives you the option to upload photos and provide specific details. The state-of-the-art technology from Trapwire then provides robust analytical capabilities that allow NVRIC to detect patterns indicative of terrorist and criminal preparations. This allows law enforcement to use the eyes and ears of the community to prevent terrorism, fight crime and keep Northern Virginia safe for all. Source: Supervisor John Cook's Braddock Beacon

FALL FEST A HIT

Thanks to many helpers and "trunkers" the October 27 combined Pool/Civic Association Trunk or Treat and Fall Fest were a hit in spite of the intermittent rain. Many characters, small and large, ranging from Mary Poppins to the Cowardly Lion to much scarier beings showed up to trick or treat among trunks with such diverse themes as Christmas, Halloween horror, the beach, and bedtime. Melanie Bennett and her able emcee, _____ Roberts, kept the fun going with games and prizes. Thanks to operational volunteers Adrian George, Jennifer Auble, James Walkinshaw, and John Ritchie. Food volunteers Scott Houghton and Zach Cahalan were deeply appreciated by adults and kids alike, and face painters Angie Morris and Ella Houghton were a particular hit with the younger crowd.

If you are disappointed to have missed the event, get in touch with Scott Houghton (vp1@ravensworthfarm.org) to get on the volunteer for next year's event and all kinds of activities in between.

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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

New folks move in all the time, especially over the spring and summer. If you have new neighbors, tell Pam Ryan. If you are a new neighbor- welcome! Please let Pam know you have arrived so that one of her New Neighbor Committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Pam Ryan (703-447-6283; pkryan74@gmail.com).

RAVENSWORTH FARM ON FACEBOOK

Want to keep up with issues, have firewood to give away, lost or found a dog, or you're wondering what surprises others have run into during renovations? The Ravensworth Farm Facebook page is the place to go. Send Tom Mathis, the group's moderator, a join request and he'll add you to this lively and informative community. You can adjust your notification settings and visit the page as little or as often as you choose. While an excellent communication tool, the Facebook page is not supported or endorsed by the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association. For Civic Association news (and old issues of The Farmer), visit RavensworthFarm.org.



CLASSIFIED ADS 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*.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| FREE | Discussion group applying the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) personality model to life in families, work, social life, school, church, personal growth and more. Certified leader, long term resident of Ravensworth Farm. Arrangements TBD. Call 703-321-9268 or email lewtag@aol.com. |
| FOR SALE | Due to a change in plans, I have a pair of prime lots in Fairfax Memorial Park 9900 Braddock Road. Jim Shipley, tel: 703-321-7454, best after 4pm. At cost OBO. |
| FREE | Flat screen 36 inch TV and new men's black shoes, never worn size 10...call 703-321-9268 or lewtag@aol.com |
| 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 703-321-9268. 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. |

POLICE CIVILIAN REVIEW PANEL PUBLIC FORUM

Join the Police Civilian Review Panel at its 2018 Public Forum! The Panel welcomes the opportunity for you to attend their 2018 Public Forum on December 10, 2018 at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. At the Public Forum, you will learn how to initiate the complaint process, who will investigate complaints, what to expect once a complaint is filed, and receive a 2018 update on Panel activity. The Independent Police Auditor will also be present to explain the Auditor's role in oversight. You will have the opportunity to engage the Panel with your questions about the process. For more information, visit the Panel's webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecivilianreviewpanel/.

SELFIE DANGER

A global study published this year reports that 259 people have died while attempting to take extreme selfies. The study is based on data from 2011 to 2017. The study also suggested that the numbers are probably far larger, as officials likely reported many selfie-caused deaths as something else. The researchers said the majority of the deaths were from falling, drowning, or vehicle accidents. One example from the news this July, is the death of Gavin Zimmerman as he tried to take a selfie on a New Zealand cliff. The study suggested the posting of "no selfies" signs at dangers locations like mountains, lakes, and the tops of tall buildings.

Reprinted from: WORLD magazine, World News Group, October 27, 2018, p. 8

52.4 MILLION

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EVENTS

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



- Dec. 4, 5-8pm– **Spirit Fundraiser for Ravensworth ES** at Kings Park McDonalds
 Dec. 4, 6pm – **Ravensworth Elementary School Chorus Concert**
 * Dec. 5 – 7:30pm, **Civic Association Board meeting**, School, SACC Room
 Dec. 6 - 7:30pm, **Christmas by Candlelight Concerts**, Immanuel Bible Church
 Dec. 7, 7pm – **Lake Braddock Theatre Holiday Unplugged**
 Dec. 7 - 7:30pm, **Christmas by Candlelight Concert**, Immanuel Bible Church
 Dec. 8 – 2:00pm, **Christmas by Candlelight Concert**, Immanuel Bible Church
 Dec. 8 & 9, 3:30-7:30 – **Bethlehem Walk**, Parkwood Baptist Church (Parkwood.org), drop-in on Bethlehem as the city is full of visitors for the census
 Dec. 9 – 6:00pm, **Christmas by Candlelight Concert**, Immanuel Bible Church
 Dec. 14 – **Wacky Hair Day** at Ravensworth E.S.
 Dec. 14, 1 p.m., **OLLI's Follies Holiday Show**, South County Senior Center, 8350 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria
 * Dec. 15-16 – **Civic Association Holiday Lights Judging**
 Dec. 24-Jan. 6 – **No School**
 * Jan. 8– 7:30pm, **Civic Association Board meeting**, School, SACC Room
 Jan 15&16- 5-10pm– **Spirit Fundraiser** for Ravensworth ES at West Springfield Ledo Pizza
 * Jan. 17 – 7:30pm, **Civic Association General Meeting**, School cafeteria
 Jan. 21 – **No School**, Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday
 * Feb. 6– 7:30pm, **Civic Association Board meeting**, School, SACC Room
 Feb. 18 – **No School**
 * Mar. 6– 7:30pm, **Civic Association Board meeting**, School, SACC Room
 * Mar. 21 – 7:30pm, **Civic Association General Meeting**, School cafeteria
 * Apr. 3 – 7:30pm, **Civic Association Board meeting**, School, SACC Room
 Apr. 15-21 – **No School**, Easter Break
 * May 1 – 7:30pm, **Civic Association Board meeting**, School, SACC Room
 * May 16 – 7:30pm, **Civic Association General Meeting**, School cafeteria
 * May 18 - **Community-wide Yard Sale**, 7am set-up, 8am-Noon, Pool parking lot
 May 18 – **Green Thumb Garden Club Plant Sale**, location TBD
 + May 26 – **Pool Opens**
 May 28 – **Memorial Day**
 June 3 – **Last Day of School**

Check out Lake Braddock Middle School theater production schedules at www.LBMSmusicaltheatre.com and Lake Braddock High School at <http://www.lbtheatre.com/>.

ELECTION DAY RFCA VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to the six outstanding volunteers who braved the rain and rotated to cover the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association's (outdoor) membership table at the school throughout the entire voting day on November 6. Many thanks to Bruce Atkins, Don Hilmer, Isabel Machuca, Mary Lipsey and Suzanne Hickey. 110 households joined the Civic Association and immediately received their free neighborhood directory that day. Incidentally, 1,000 more people voted than joined the Civic Association. 1,110 Ravensworth Farm residents voted in-person at Ravensworth Elementary School on election day. There are just over 1,850 registered voters in the Ravensworth Precinct.

2019 BRADDOCK SUPERVISOR ELECTION

Ravensworth Farm resident James Walkinshaw has thrown his proverbial hat into the ring for the position of Braddock District Supervisor. The election will be held November 5, 2019.

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OPEN CIVIC ASSOCIATION & NEIGHBORHOOD POSITIONS

Corresponding Secretary (Board Position)

Directory/Farmer Advertising Sales

New Neighbor Greeters (Pam Ryan leads this but could use help)

Event Volunteers (many and varied roles and commitments, see Scott Houghton)

Block Captains (each fall, as little or as much time as you have, talk to Elissa Myers - 703-321-7590 or elissa@elissamyers.com)

Election Officers – register and train through Fairfax County Board of Elections and specify you only want to work in Ravensworth Precinct 115.

Ravensworth Farm Pool Board and Volunteers – Vice President; see Pool Board list **below**.

NEW POOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Several new people joined the Board at the recent Ravensworth Farm Pool general membership meeting. Members of the Board of Directors are:

Karen Hampton – President

____ You? ____ – Vice President

Nicole Leger – Secretary

Shannon Small – Treasurer

Jenifer Auble – Membership Directory

Shawn Thliveris – Swim Team Representative

Melinda Young – Dive Team Representative

Ursula Schuttinga – Activities Director

Jim Hayes – Concessions Director

Dan VanBrunt – Grounds & Maintenance Director

Kate Janczyk – Web Director

To find out more about the Pool, pool activities throughout the year, and to contact members of the Board, visit ravensworthfarmpool.com.

UPCOMING CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The January 17 Civic Association Meeting is tentatively scheduled to have Fairfax County Officials discussing Issues Common to Braddock Communities. This is your chance to ask questions of one or more County officials. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm in the Ravensworth Elementary School cafeteria. In case of inclement weather, check for school closings before heading out.

The March 21 Civic Association Meeting will be Taste of Ravensworth. Come sample goodies from Ravensworth food businesses before the business and guest speaker portions of the meeting. If you would like to have your culinary business featured at Taste of Ravensworth, contact Scott Houghton at vp1@ravensworthfarm.org or 703-321-7320.

PAY DUES - GET DIRECTORY & FUN

The new year is upon us! The Civic Association membership year is October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. 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. Members who pay online will receive a copy of the neighborhood directory delivered to their doors. Civic Association dues are \$15 and cover the cost of activities ranging from entrance beautification to the Community BBQ, as well as publication and delivery of The Ravensworth Farmer.

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WORKING TEENS

If you're looking for a teen or young adult to help with your yard, child, animal, or other odd jobs, check out the list of teens who are willing to work. See the Youth Services page of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association directory. Don't have a directory? Join the Civic Association by paying your dues at <http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org> and a directory will be delivered to your doorstep.

SLOW DOWN SIGNS

Source: Office of Braddock Supervisor John Cook
Constituents have asked about SLOW DOWN WE LIVE HERE signs. In the 2018 Budget carryover, Supervisor Cook requested funds be set aside for more signs. The Board of Supervisors passed this item. Signs should be available in 2019.



SCAMMERS SURGE

A new report predicts nearly half of all calls to mobile phones in 2019 will be fraudulent. First Orion, a company that provides call screening and blocking services, analyzed more than 50 billion cell phone calls over an 18-month period. The portion of calls considered mobile scams rose from 3.7 percent of total calls in 2017 to 29.2 percent in 2018. The company predicts scam calls will likely reach 44.6 percent by early 2019.

First Orion says many scammers are using "neighborhood spoofing," a technique that disguises their actual phone number and displays it as a local number on a call recipient's caller ID. Call-blocking apps can only block known numbers, not legitimate numbers that scammers temporarily hijack.

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READING MATTERS!

Check out the impact of a child reading 20 minutes per day. A child who reads 20 minutes per day is exposed to 1.8 million words per year and scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests. A child who reads five minutes per day is exposed to 282,000 words per year and scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests. A child who reads just one minute per day is exposed to only 8,000 words per year and scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

Source: Nagy, Anderson and Herman, 1987 via Scholastic

CONTRIBUTE TO CLEAN WATER

Compared to a lawn area, rain gardens absorb 30 percent more water, preventing runoff, erosion and flooding which is becoming a problem for many municipalities and their storm water infrastructure. As forests and farms are replaced by cities and suburbs, runoff from impervious surfaces has increased dramatically and damaged the environment in significant ways.

Rain gardens reduce storm water runoff and help prevent some of this damage. Every homeowner and business that installs a rain garden will be doing their part to protect: communities from flooding; streams and lakes from pollution, sedimentation and erosion; the water table and underground aquifers; and will be adding to the beauty of local communities. Rain gardens are comprised of plants that are good at trapping and slowing water and sediment runoff after rainfall. They also provide valuable habitat for pollinators, birds and butterflies. In order to be effective, rain gardens must be constructed in a specific way. A rain garden is not a pond and is intended to be dry between rainfalls. Water in rain gardens should quickly soak into the ground.

Some planning is required before a rain garden can be installed. For assistance and more information on rain gardens and their construction, visit the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation or call 703-324-1460, TTY 711.



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