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RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

June 2020

The Ravensworth **e-Farmer**

Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dearest Farmers:

We continue to endure interesting times and an uncertain future. We struggle with employment, food and sundries supply, a lagging economy, and isolation. Though this crisis is by no means unprecedented, it is unprecedented in our lifetimes, and the world is much changed since mankind last faced such a dilemma. Please rest assured, though, we will get through this. This will pass.

In the meantime, we can take action to ease our burdens and ease the burdens of others. While we maintain social distancing, though, it is vital that we do not lose contact with one another. We need some social contact for our own mental and emotional health, but we also need to work together to meet one another's needs. While it is important that we practice social distancing, it is also important that we look out for one another, especially for those who are more vulnerable. Please watch out for your neighbors and reach out. If you cannot make direct personal contact, you can use the telephone or other electronic means of communication. If you do not know your neighbor, we have the neighborhood directory that is free with every Civic Association membership. Steve Beste has spent years managing the directory and has done a phenomenal job. Let's put it to good use.

Con't Pg. 3



STOP—SAVE THIS FARMER!
It's the last one until
September.

Check the website, Facebook page,
and sign up for the RFCA
e-newsletter to receive up-to-date
information during the summer.

DIGITAL EDITION OF THE RAVENSWORTH FARMER

Thank you for reading the purely digital edition of The Ravensworth Farmer. Due to the closure of the Key Center School during the "Coronavirus Break" where our copies of The Farmer are normally printed, we can't print The Ravensworth Farmer. If you have a neighbor who doesn't read online or navigate the internet, please print a copy for your neighbor.
Thanks!

Pay your 2019-2020 Ravensworth
Farm Civic Association
Dues online at
<http://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	Richard Hildebrand		vp2@ravensworthfarm.org
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151	recsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Corresponding Secretary	Diwakar Sharma	571-314-2400	corsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Treasurer	John Ritchie	703-321-8427	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	

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee	James Walkinshaw Margaret Kinder	703-314-1473 703-764-9576	james.walkinshaw@gmail.com
Hospitality	Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063	hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
New Neighbors	Cindy Cho		choc64@gmail.com
Directory	Coordinator Advertising	Stephen Beste VACANT	703-321-9110 directory@ravensworthfarm.org
Farmer	Editor Preparation Advertising, Flyers Distribution Advertising	Sara Ortiz Susan Deyampert John Ritchie Vince DeCoursey VACANT	703-321-8757 703-321-3150 703-321-8427 703 850-9392 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org rdecourcejr@verizon.net ads@ravensworthfarm.org
Community Organizations			
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Andrea Poole		president@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Dan VanBrunt		president@ravensworthfarmpool.com
Green Thumb Garden Club	Karen Aftergut		

Association Meetings & Deadlines 2019-20

MONTH	EVENTS
May	21 – Civic Assoc Mtg - Via Zoom (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81211759427?pwd=bVcvTHJzT0RrQjcwMlk5L1RMaHc0Zz09 www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 812 1175 9427 Password: 008145)
August	August 29 – BBQ, 4PM—7PM
Unless noted otherwise, all Meetings are 7:30pm online.	

Con't from Pg. 1

Now is a great time to make acquaintances. Even if it is not in person, we can start to build relationships that can grow once this crisis has passed. We have a strong community. We can make it stronger.

Many of us are already doing great things to lighten our neighbors' burdens. We are extremely grateful for the work you are doing. It is recognized, and it is appreciated. Until we again get to enjoy fellowship with one another, keep the faith and continue pushing forward.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at the May General Membership Meeting on Thursday, May 21 at 7:30pm via Zoom virtual meeting. Instructions for joining us can be found in this issue of The Farmer, will be available on Facebook, and will be sent out via email. If you don't receive emails about events, activities, and meetings from the Civic Association, you can sign up for emails at ravensworthfarm.org. Look for the heading *Stay Informed – Join the Email List* on the home page.

Truly yours,

Allan B. Robertson
President
Ravensworth Farm Civic Association
prez@ravensworthfarm.org
(703) 627-0219

GREETINGS FROM RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY

by Erika Aspuria, Principal

We hope this message finds you and your loved ones well. We miss seeing our students every day in our school building. Ravensworth Elementary's distance learning journey is in place because the health and safety of our students and families during this pandemic is a priority.

It's been exciting to have our first few weeks of face-to-face instruction. Our staff is working hard to provide opportunities for our students' continuity of learning. Our collaborative teaching teams continue to reflect on distance learning plans and are using those reflections for constant adjustment. Our distance learning goal is to continue to inspire a love of learning in our students and to continue to foster the growth and progress towards our standards of learning.

We are Raven Strong!

JUNE 23 PRIMARY ELECTIONS - 6AM - 7PM

In our precinct, elections are being held for the following primaries. You must choose one party's primary in which to vote.

Republican Primary Election - Member, United States Senate

Daniel M. Gade
Thomas A. Specialle II
Alissa A. Baldwin

Democratic Primary Election - Member, United States House of Representatives, 11th Congressional District

Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly
Zainab M. Mohsini

If you prefer to vote absentee, you must request an absentee ballot no later than June 15 at 5pm. Choose reason "2A My disability or illness" for absentee voting in the June 2020 elections due to COVID-19. Voters who choose the absentee option should do so as soon as possible so they can get their ballots in time to return them by mail by Election Day. Registered voters may request their ballots here:

<https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>. (Editor's Note: As a seasoned Election Officer, I find that people who waited until the deadline to request their ballot don't always receive their ballot before election day. Having chosen the absentee option, however, they cannot be allowed to vote in person even if the absentee ballot is lost in the mail. Request your ballot early!)



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"Facilitated the sale of our home within a few weeks, late in the summer, and at a very reasonable price, despite me having to go on military orders around the closing. *We could not have asked for better service and care for our home!*"



"She guided us through the sales process and we ended up selling the home for even more than we originally asked. *Would recommend her without reservation.*"



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ONLINE CIVIC ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING - MAY 21, 7:30PM

The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association will hold its General Membership Meeting on May 21 at 7:30 via Zoom. To join the meeting, click this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81211759427?pwd=bVevTHJzT0RrQjcwMlk5L1RMaHc0Zz09> (if you've downloaded this pdf) or go to [Zoom.us](https://zoom.us), click Join a Meeting, and use Meeting ID: 812 1175 9427 and Password 008145 to join.

The primary business of the meeting is to elect Civic Association officers and to vote on proposed changes to the Association's by-laws. Anyone may attend the Civic Association's meeting, but only those households that have joined the Civic Association may vote on the business of the meeting.

Proposed Slate Of Officers For 2020-2021

President – Allan Robertson
 1st Vice President – Scott Houghton
 2d Vice President – Richard Hildebrand
 Treasurer – John Ritchie
 Corresponding Secretary – Diwakar Sharma
 Recording Secretary – Ginger Rogers

Proposed By-Law Changes To Be Voted On

Existing By-Laws With Proposed Changes

SECTION 2.01. MEMBERSHIP' The initial membership of the Corporation shall consist of those residents and or property owners of Ravensworth Farm who are members of the unincorporated association known as Ravensworth Farm Civic Association as of the 4th day of October 1990.

Thereafter membership in the corporation shall be open to adult residents in and/or property owners of properties located in Sections 1 through 11, Ravensworth and approximately sixty-six invited property owners west of Flag Run, Fairfax County, Virginia under the following conditions: Each residential lot (house) is entitled to purchase one membership unit and thus have one vote. Each membership unit shall constitute one member of the Corporation. Adult residents of any residential lot may purchase one membership unit Non-resident owners of residential lot(s) may purchase one membership unit regardless of the number of residential lots owned. The church, school and pool may each purchase one membership if they so desire. Members in good standing are those who have paid all current dues and whose names are entered in the membership records, The amount of the annual dues shall be fixed by the Board of Directors and shall be for the period from ~~January 1 through December 31 of each year~~ **October 1 of the year through September 30 of the following year.**

SECTION 2.02. ANNUAL MEETING: The annual meeting of the members of the Corporation, for the election of officers and directors and the transaction of such other business within its Powers as may properly come before the meeting, shall be held at ~~7:30pm on the fourth Thursday of May in each year, or at such other time and on such other day falling on or before the 30th day thereafter as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors, commencing with the year 1991. If that day is a legal holiday, then the annual meeting shall be held on the next succeeding day that is not a legal holiday,~~ **in May.** The failure to hold an annual meeting of the members shall not in any way affect any valid acts of the Corporation and shall not affect its corporate existence.

SECTION 2.03. GENERAL MEETINGS: In addition, to the Annual Meeting of the Members, there shall be general meetings of the Members in the months of ~~September, November, January and March~~ **October and March.**

ARTICLE VIII FINANCE

SECTION 8.01.CHECKS NOTES DRAFTS ETC.: Checks, drafts and other orders for payment of money, notes and other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, shall be signed by such persons as the Board of Directors from time to time may designate and authorize. Unless otherwise provided by resolution of the Board of Directors, they shall be signed by the President, First Vice-President or Second Vice-President and countersigned by the Treasurer or Assistant Treasurer or the Secretary or Assistant Secretary.

SECTION 8.02. FISCAL YEAR: The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be the twelve (12) month calendar month period ending on ~~July 31~~ **September 30** of each year, unless otherwise fixed by the Board of Directors, and shall consist of such accounting periods as may be fixed by the Board of Directors.

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CHECK ON YOUR OLDER OR ILL NEIGHBORS

Even if you're sure their children or other neighbors are checking, check anyway, please. If you're venturing out, call and offer to pick something up. Leave encouraging notes on doors. They might have been okay with everything initially and now be needing help with things they hadn't thought of.

ODD-JOBS, YARD WORK, AND MORE

If you're looking for a bit of help around the yard or house or someone to walk your dog, remember to check the Youth Services listing in the Ravensworth Farm Directory. It contains a list on page 74-75 of your younger neighbors who would like to help out and earn some money, too. Kids 12 and up, if you would like to be included in the Youth Services section of the directory that will come out this fall, email directory@ravensworthfarm.org with your phone number and in which categories you would like to be listed.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION BBQ - AUGUST 29, 4PM-7PM (STILL ON, FOR NOW)

The annual Civic Association Barbecue and Potluck will be held at the Pool Saturday, August 29 from 4PM—7PM. The Civic Association will supply the meat, a vegetarian alternative, and paper goods. You bring the sides and desserts.

As events may change by August, please check RavensworthFarm.org for the most up-to-date schedule.



- Tree Removal, Pruning, stump grinding, lot clearing & storm damage.
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Ravensworth Resident

RAVENSWORTH MEMORIES

by Elaine and Roland Burrows of Penley Place

As original owners of a Ravensworth Farm home, we can add a little to the history of Ravensworth as we know it today.

Edward R. Carr was a reputable builder of upscale homes in the area during the 1950s and 1960s. Apparently, he decided there was a market for more moderate housing and proceeded to build approximately 75 homes just east of the then-Ravensworth area and west of the Flag Run creek that today separates the Ravensworth and North Springfield subdivisions. This is the area that now is the eastern part of Ravenel Lane, including its own cul-de-sac that abuts the industrial park; two cul-de-sacs that connect to Ravenel Lane: Ravenel Court and Penley Place; and a number of homes on Queensberry Avenue east of Sedgwick Lane.

These areas were not part of the original Ravensworth Farm plan but have since been grouped into the neighborhood. The county probably had more to do with this grouping by selecting Ravensworth Elementary School for the new owners as opposed to North Springfield Elementary School located on the other side of Flag Run creek from these homes.

Carr called this new addition Flag Run Estates because of the proximity to the creek. The models for the new homes were actually located east of the creek on Heming Place, a cul-de-sac just off of Heming Avenue near the entrance to Lake Accotink. To help promote the sale of homes, he hired a man with a carriage to convey prospective buyers to the lake from the model homes nearby.

My wife and I placed a contract on the rambler model in November 1963 to be built on Penley Place. It was late afternoon and almost dark when we visited the site, which was just a hole in the ground surrounded by trees on three sides sitting on almost half an acre. But there was a problem. None of the homes were going to be built with carports, let alone garages, and we wanted a carport.

It just so happened that my wife worked for a commercial real estate owner in DC. She complained to her boss about wanting a carport. As it turned out, her boss and Carr were old friends and Carr owed her boss a favor. So, her boss called up his old friend Carr and told him his secretary wanted a carport built on to the home. Carr relented and agreed to add a carport. This raised the price of a rambler from \$23,900 to \$24,500, a \$600 increase. For that we got a carport, the concrete slab and a full driveway.

My wife remembers driving from Arlington down Braddock Road when she was young to her uncle and grandparents' home. Their home was located on top of a hill that was next to what is now Wakefield Park. To get to their home you had to travel down a single-lane dirt road. She has vivid memories of their family picnics. As teenagers, that trip was way out in the country and was on land that is now Ravensworth.

We moved into our home in May 1964 and could not be more pleased with the home and the neighborhood.

WANTED: EDITOR FOR THE FARMER

The current editor of The Ravensworth Farmer has been doing the job for eight years and is ready to step down. Can you step in and fill this position? This is a great position for people who like to know what is going on in the neighborhood. A stipend is available. The editor:

Collects information from community groups, clubs, committees, and neighbors by email; Searches out relevant or interesting information to include in The Farmer; Proofreads and edits community information; Attends a monthly board meeting and three annual Civic Association meetings; Writes articles based on the content of some of the meetings; Sends a complete file of the information to the formatter; Develops the annual schedule for formatting, printing and delivery of the Farmer; Works with RFCA Board to produce annual schedule of events for community; Answers questions by email and phone regarding The Ravensworth Farmer; Necessary skills include good writing, good organization, email, MS Word or similar. No formatting skills are required.

If interested, please contact Sara Ortiz (rfcafarmers@ravensworthfarm.org or 703-321-8757) or Allan Robertson (prez@ravensworthfarm.org or 703-627-0219)

JARVIES MOVE IN- SIGHT UNSEEN

by Robert Blizzard

After receiving Air Force orders, Tom and Nancy Jarvie moved from Marin County, California to Ravensworth in November of 1967. Arriving in the late Fall, there were very few houses for sale. They had a weekend to buy a house and they found a two story rambler on Ravenel Lane that was the only one with four bedrooms where the owners could move out fast. Tom had to be at work on Monday and they were looking on Saturday. He left Nancy, the three kids, and his Mom in the car while he went up to the door. Tom saw a beautiful big American Beech tree through the front door, asked if the house had four bedrooms and how long it would take for them to move. Sight unseen, he said SOLD. Guess how he was welcomed back at the car! However, getting their house has been the best snap judgment they have made through the years.

When they moved into Ravensworth, Lisa was seven, Tommy was five, and Eric was nine months old. The house cost \$31,000 at the time, \$1000 more than Veterans Administration would accept. They were on a three year tour that extended for 28 more years before Tom retired from the Air Force. The community was almost complete when they moved in and only four houses were later added on Ravenel Lane. Nancy said, "The house chose us and we have enlarged it twice." Through the years they added a carport, air conditioning, an extra room or office, a storage room and deck.

Commuting to the Pentagon was not easy for Tom, who left for work at five AM to avoid traffic especially at the Mixing Bowl near the Pentagon. He was commander of the Flight Medicine Clinic. The Ravensworth shopping center was open and included: a good hardware store, a drug store that included garden needs in season, a florist, a steak restaurant and a nice gift shop that was one of a kind. Other shopping was done at 7 Corners and the Military exchange. There was no kindergarten when they moved here. Their three children attended Ravensworth Elementary, Poe Middle and Annandale High School and did well.

The neighborhood always felt close, with friends just outside the door. They could depend on each other and felt, with few exceptions, safe and that this was a wonderful place to bring up the kids. Their children are older now with grown families of their own. Each have looked for a community like Ravensworth in which to live.

There has always been lots of children for friends. Over the years, the community has had parades, Fall Fairs, and Haunted houses. All of these things the Jarvie family participated in including Christmas caroling, lighting displays, and neighborhood parties. There was lots of fun for adults as well as the kids.

The lake has been a jewel. The cardboard boat race has been a favorite of the family although they just watched. Lake Accotink has just been a special place to them. When the house was purchased they did not know about the lake but it soon became a place for hikes, nature walks and one of their sons had his wedding reception under the wonderful covered shelter, where every Friday night in the summer the community enjoys music at sunset. It would be hard to find another Lake Accotink Park.

Several events have impacted the community. In 1968, the fires in the city after Rev. Martin Luther King was killed were one; we could see the city burning from the Landmark area. In January 1982 when the snow storm caused an airplane to hit the 14th street bridge, traffic was snarled for hours and hours. Many hours passed before contact was made with loved ones who were commuting home. It was a scary night. Out of 79 on board, only four passengers and one crew member survived. During the Vietnam War, there was a bombing at the Pentagon, the throwing of blood on the building and the military personnel did not wear their uniforms to work. Many of these events did impact the family. But 9/11 was the granddaddy of all these events. Tom had retired by then, but he was worried about his friends and his clinic. Tom was relieved to learn that all were safe.

The Jarvies have witnessed many changes. In the 1970s, they thought traveling to Fairfax City to take the children to the dentist was traveling to the country, a long, long way. Today the biggest challenge is traffic and more traffic. When they bought the house, it was important that there were two exits from the development. Now that is good because there were just stop signs on two lane roads. Now there are traffic lights on highways with many lanes and often accidents that make using the second way out important. They have seen children grow up and families move away, but Ravensworth has kept its beauty and charm. The most important lasting effect are their friendships that still exist today.

NEW TETHERING RESTRICTIONS GO IN EFFECT ON JULY 1

By Susan Laume The Connection

Companion animal advocates are among those with reason to celebrate the 2020s Virginia's General Assembly. This year, grassroots progressives saw nearly a dozen bills pass related to animal care and humane treatment. New laws will include restrictions on outdoor animal tethering; puppy stores: creating care criteria; consumer protections; annual inspections by the State veterinarian; and to recognize December as Virginia puppy mill awareness month.

Animal welfare is an issue where "two Virginias" are often evidenced in citizen viewpoints: rural and urban. Many in urban Virginia tend to see pets as members of the family who reside inside the home and are treated like furry children. Many in rural Virginia may see animals more traditionally; often kept outside for security, sport or agriculture. Perhaps nowhere has the difference in views of what constitutes humane treatment been seen as acutely as in the multi-year legislative debate over tethering: confining a dog outside on a chain or rope.

On this issue lawmakers have been at odds, literally over 60 inches, and degrees of temperature for several years. This year new restrictions on tethering go into effect on July 1. The new requirements raise the minimum tether length to the greater of 15 feet or four times the length of the animal, measured tip of nose to base of tail. If inspected, an animal control officer may determine if a shorter length of no less than ten feet or three times the animal's length is better suited. The tether material itself must not cause injury or pain, nor weigh more than one-tenth the animal's body weight.

The new law recognizes the dangers to animals left tied outside during certain conditions including extreme temperatures and severe weather events. Outside animal tethering is not considered adequate shelter: unless the animal is safe from predators; unless animal is well suited/well equipped to tolerate its environment; during the effective period for a hurricane warning/tropical storm warning issued for the area by the National Weather Service; during a heat advisory issued by a local or state authority; when the actual or effective outdoor temperature is 85 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; when the actual or effective outdoor temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or lower; during the effective period for a severe weather warning issued for the area by the National Weather Service, including a winter storm, tornado, or severe thunderstorm warning. Sheltering exemptions may be allowed in certain situations, only if an animal control officer, having inspected an animal's individual circumstances, has determined the animal to be safe from predators and well suited and well equipped to tolerate its environment, i.e. a thick furred husky in 31 degree snowy weather versus a short-haired chihuahua in the same circumstances. No exemptions may be made during issued hurricane/tropical storm warnings.

House bill provisions that would have prohibited outdoor tethering between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. and allowing localities to adopt more stringent ordinances than the state provisions were not accepted. Leash walking a dog is not considered tethering. Readers may find the full language of the bills at www.lis.virginia.gov by searching HB 1552 or SB 272 Tethering animals; adequate shelter and space.

The author is Director of the VA Dog Army, a companion animal law enforcement and legislation advocacy group. Source: The Great Falls Connection newspaper

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2020/050620/Great%20Falls.pdf>

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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 Chris Hunt at starsman66@yahoo.com or any other co-op member for more information or to attend the next meeting.

NEW NEIGHBORS

New folks move in all the time. If you have new neighbors, tell Cindy Cho. If you are a new neighbor- welcome! Please let Cindy know you have arrived so that one of her New Neighbor Committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Cindy Cho (choc64@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 rcafarmers@ravensworthfarm.org or to PO Box 1733, 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*.

HANDYMAN	Twenty year Ravenel Lane resident offering handyman services within Ravensworth Farm. Mr. Riyad Bouizar, cell 202-409-8005; riyad.bouizar@gmail.com
FOR RENT	Beach House For Rent – Apartment and house for rent in Rehoboth Beach. Call 540-303-6694 or 703-321-9757 for information. Kathy Strother
DONATIONS ACCEPTED	Good condition used clothes, baby gear (not cribs), and small, useful kitchen items for Immanuel's Hope and good condition clothes, winter outerwear, new socks, and small toiletries for Central Union Mission in DC. Drop off at Immanuel Bible Church lobby (Braddock Rd entrance #1) or the Ortiz home in Ravensworth Farm. Ortiz Family – 703-321-8757
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.

POOL & SWIM TEAM NEWS

Ravensworth Farm Pool

Ravensworth Pool is still planning to open this summer and would love for you to join us! We recognize that these times are uncertain and we are in a fluid situation. To recognize that, instead of requiring our full membership fee up front, we are currently only requesting a non-refundable deposit of \$75 to hold your spot (and cover upfront expenses) and then as more information comes available between now and June 10th, we would request the remaining balance. We are optimistic and look forward to being able to swim this summer.

League Swim & Dive – Northern Virginia Swim League

Dear NVSL Swimmers, Divers, Families, Volunteers and Sponsors,

Planning for the 2020 season began even as the 2019 season came to a close. We eagerly looked forward to commemorating our 65th anniversary as a league of more than 17,000 incredible swimmers and divers. As we know, the spread of the COVID-19 virus resulted in significant changes in our plans and daily lives. Despite our best efforts to gather as much information about the implications of COVID-19 to confidently hold a potential season, we have reached the difficult decision that the 2020 season must be canceled. We feel profound sadness knowing the disappointment this will cause, but the decision was made to prioritize the safety of our participants, supporters, and communities.

Over the last eight weeks, both the Executive Board and the full League Board met more than a dozen times to monitor the ongoing developments related to COVID-19. We gathered input from public health officials, as well as elected and appointed representatives from all levels of government. Most importantly, we sought input from all 102 teams through the 17 Division Coordinators. The common thread in the feedback, along with the disappointment of missing a special summer tradition, was the commitment to health and safety. The Board greatly appreciates the constructive conversations that advanced the discussion on the status of the 2020 season. We took into account as

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much information as we could to determine whether the League could operate in a safe and healthy way that did not put overwhelming logistical and organizational pressure on the League's teams.

We expect that teams will have many questions, and we will work quickly to answer where possible. At this moment, we can assure you of the following:

- Senior swimmers and divers will have the opportunity to apply for 2020 NVSL scholarships.
- Team dues will be fully refunded.

We are looking ahead and already planning how to make the 2021 season the best one yet.

Sincerely,
The NVSL Executive Board

Ravensworth Ravens Swim Team

Our hope is to still have some form of swim team practices and maybe team meets. We will have to see. So stay tuned for more information. We will have to see.

EVENTS

*Something to add? Email RFCAFarmer@ravensworthfarm.org or call 703-321-8757 to add to the calendar of events. *notes Civic Association Events +notes Pool events*

^^^^^Note: The scheduled events below may change, depending on public health events.^^^^^

June 22 – 26 – **Immanuel Bible Church VBS** Morning program through 3rd grade: Thirsty: Get to Know the Living Water and evening program for 4th -6th grade is Wipeout: So Long Self; Registration opens May 1 at <https://immanuelbible.church/children/vbs>.

July 27-31, 6-8:30pm – **Parkwood Baptist Church VBS**, Concrete and Cranes: Building on the Love of Jesus, registration at Parkwood.org/vbs

***Aug 29 – Annual Ravensworth Farm BBQ, Pool, 4PM—7PM.**

Sep 8 & 11, 9:30am – Registration for **English as a Second Language Morning Classes** at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Rd, Door 1. \$50 for new students, includes book

Sep 8 & 10, 7:30pm – Registration for **English as a Second Language Evening Classes** at Immanuel Bible Church, 6911 Braddock Rd, Door 3. \$50 for new students, includes book

NEWS FROM SUPERVISOR WALKINSHAW

by Supervisor James Walkinshaw

May 8, 2020

Dear Neighbor,

This morning I spent some time visiting the volunteers at [Ecumenical Community Helping Others \(ECHO\)](#). They are leading the charge in combating the food insecurity many of our neighbors are facing due to COVID-19.

They've received an outpouring of support and donations from the community. But food is flying off their shelves faster than it's coming in. So I need your help.

For nine years, the Stuff the Bus food drive has helped fill the shelves of local nonprofits' food pantries. But this year we're doing things a little bit different. Instead of being parked in front of grocery stores, they'll be in front of Board of Supervisors' offices and other government facilities to allow donors to comply with social distancing.

Con't from Pg. 22

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On Saturday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Fastran buses will be parked in 21 locations throughout Fairfax County to collect food donations. In Braddock District, we will be at the following locations.

- Braddock District Supervisor's Office (9002 Burke Lake Rd. Burke, VA)
- David R. Pinn Community Center (10225 Zion Dr. Fairfax, VA)
- Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Govt. Center Pkwy Fairfax, VA)

I'll be visiting all three locations and hope to see you there. We need thousands of pounds of food to keep our neighbors from going hungry.

Click here to see the complete list of locations to drop off your food donations, what to put on your shopping list to donate, and tips for donating safely at Stuff the Bus.

If you are unable to donate in person but want to contribute, click here to visit Volunteer Fairfax's Donation Page to connect with and donate to nonprofits serving our community.

I FOUND A BABY BIRD. WHAT DO I DO?

At some point, nearly everyone who spends time outdoors finds a baby bird—one that is unable to fly well and seems lost or abandoned. Your first impulse may be to help the young bird, but in the great majority of cases the young bird doesn't need help. In fact, intervening often makes the situation worse. Here's how to determine whether to take action:

The first thing to do is to figure out if the baby bird is a nestling or a fledgling.

Most of the baby birds people find are fledglings. These are young birds that have just left the nest, and can't fly yet, but are still under the care of their parents, and do not need our help. Fledglings are feathered and capable of hopping or flitting, with toes that can tightly grip your finger or a twig. These youngsters are generally adorable and fluffy, with a tiny stub of a tail.

When fledglings leave their nest they rarely return, so even if you see the nest it's not a good idea to put the bird back in—it will hop right back out. Usually there is no reason to intervene at all beyond putting the bird on a nearby perch out of harm's way and keeping pets indoors. The parents may be attending to four or five young scattered in different directions, but they will return to care for the one you have found. You can watch from a distance to make sure the parents are returning to care for the fledgling.

If the baby bird is sparsely feathered and not capable of hopping, walking, flitting, or gripping tightly to your finger, it's a nestling. If so, the nest is almost certainly nearby. If you can find the nest (it may be well hidden), put the bird back as quickly as possible. Don't worry—parent birds do not recognize their young by smell. They will not abandon a baby if it has been touched by humans. If the nest has been destroyed you can make a new one, place the chick back inside and watch to see if the parents come back.

If you have found both parents dead, the young bird is injured, you can't find the nest, or are absolutely certain that the bird was orphaned, then your best course of action is to bring it to a wildlife rehabilitator. You can find one in the wildlife rehabilitator directory, or Google your state and "wildlife rehabilitation." A sick, injured or orphaned baby bird may need emergency care until you can get it to a wildlife rehabilitator. [See information from Three Ring Ranch Bird Sanctuary.]

Bottom line: remember that the vast majority of "abandoned" baby birds are perfectly healthy fledglings whose parents are nearby and watching out for them.

Cornell Bird Lab <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/i-found-a-baby-bird-what-do-i-do/>

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Con't from Pg. 22

How do you rescue/capture an injured bird?

Catching an injured bird is not usually a problem since the bird is often incapable of moving and is in shock or too weak to put up any sort of resistance to handling.

Pick the bird up by grasping it gently around the shoulders so that the wings are held against the body and cannot flap. At this point the bird can be placed in a cardboard box with a soft towel on the bottom and a cover on the top.

If you are having trouble catching the bird, or you are afraid to touch it, a towel can be used like a "net". Simply drop the towel lightly over the bird. The darkness will both calm and immobilize the bird so that it is easier to pick up.

How do you keep baby birds warm?

Baby birds, especially those who are featherless, need to be kept warm. Birds have a higher body temperature than humans and babies should be warm to the touch. Heat can be provided by hot water bottle. If one is not available, plastic shampoo-type bottles filled with warm water are a good substitute. These should be placed under a towel lining a carrier or cardboard box so that the bird does not get burned. Using two bottles, one on either side of the body, will provide even more warmth. This type of contact heating helps prevent pneumonia and dehydration by heating the body but not to the environment (like a heat lamp does). Finally, do not place the bird in the sun. Although birds need to be kept warm, the hot, direct sun could quickly overheat the bird, which may not be capable of moving itself into the shade. Keeping the bird outside in the sun also exposes it to predators. If you use a heating pad be sure to place it on the lowest setting and only under part of the box so the baby can move away from the heat if it needs to.

What can you feed a bird?

Babies should be fed at least every hour, and every half hour for featherless babies, throughout the daylight hours. If you live far away and are unable to get the bird to a rehabber or to the Sanctuary right away, you should try feeding the bird. It is important to identify the bird before any feeding is attempted as different birds have different dietary needs.

Babies should be fed three to four mouthfuls of food every hour during daylight hours. Feeding can be done with a toothpick or, if the bird is larger, a smooth rounded chopstick. Each feeding should be followed with a couple of drops of water, from an eyedropper or dripped off the end of a finger. Do not hold the bird while giving food and water unless absolutely necessary, and if the bird must be held, never flip it on its back to give food. Care should be taken in giving food and water since too much of either could easily choke or suffocate the bird. Also, do not squirt water directly down the bird's throat. Just drop a little bit on the end of the beak and let it move down by capillary action. Finally, be careful not to get water in the bird's nostrils.

Begin feeding young birds with an eyedropper. Fill the dropper so there are no air bubbles. If the bird won't open its mouth when food is presented, gently open the beak by slipping a fingernail between the upper and lower jaws and prying them apart. Put the dropper in the back of the bird's throat, behind the tongue, and slowly squeeze the dropper. Be careful not to get fluid in the breathing tube in the floor of the mouth just behind the tongue. Clean "extra" food from the beak and feathers with a moist tissue.

Later, the bird will take thicker food and will eventually open the beak when it sees food or it may even squawk when it wants food. Stick the food to the end of a pointed popsicle stick or a drinking straw cut on a slant and give it to the bird. Do not use metal tweezers--they may damage the bird's tender mouth. As the bird grows it will eat more at each feeding, but less frequently.

Very small babies will need to be stimulated to void by having you very gently wipe their bottom with a warm damp tissue after each feeding. Be sure the bird is making stool and that it is cleaned off the birds bottom several times a day.

DO NOT GIVE MILK OR BREAD to birds. They are not mammals and therefore milk is not part of their natural diet. Milk may also cause diarrhea, leading to dehydration, and bread does not provide the protein and vitamins needed by small babies.

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Con't from Pg. 24

Emergency Food

When a bird is first found, it likely is hungry and dehydrated. You may make a quick food that will keep the bird alive until you can prepare a complete diet. The following recipes are for emergency use only and should not be used for more than a few hours, since they are only "energy" foods, not "growing" foods.

Mix 4 tsp. water and 1 tsp. sugar - OR

2 tsp. water and 1 tsp. white Karo syrup - OR

2 egg yolks and 2 oz. boiled and cooled Pedia-lyte, Gatorade or Coca-Cola or other caffeine-free, non-diet soda.

Feed the mixture with an eyedropper. Fill the dropper, poke it down the bird's throat (past the entrance to the air pipe or trachea), and pump it in. Take care to keep the food from soiling the bird's feathers. Once it dries, it will be very difficult to remove without harming the bird.

Complete Diets

The majority of birds can be classified in two groups: meat eaters and seed eaters. Basic diets for these are listed below with suggestions for special foods for different species of birds. The sooner you identify the bird, the sooner you can provide the best diet. The basic foods mentioned in these diets can be classified into two groups:

MEAT:

- * P/D dog food (canned and available from most veterinarians),
- * dry puppy kibbles (have to be soaked in water),
- * boiled chicken, strained beef baby food,
- * hard-boiled chicken egg yolk,
- * live insects such as flies and mealworms.

GRAIN:

- * high protein dry baby cereal,
- * wheat germ,
- * corn or oatmeal that has been powdered down in a blender.

Harrison's Juvenile Bird Feeding Formula (available from some veterinarians) or Kaytee EXACT "Formulas for Baby Birds", including mynas. Watch for iron rich foods with mynas since this is toxic to them.

MEAT and GRAIN proportions are generally:

INSECT-EATING BIRDS -- 1 part MEAT to 2 parts GRAIN

SEED-EATING BIRDS -- 1 part MEAT to 4 parts GRAIN

When MEAT is asked for in the diet, you can pick any MEAT from the MEAT group. You can then add, in the right proportions, any GRAIN from the GRAIN group. For example, a seed-eater diet could be 1 part P/D dog food and 5 parts wheat germ. It is suggested that you vary this diet as much as possible as long as you stay within the proper framework. For example the next time you mix up a batch of formula for your seed-eating bird, you might use 1 part boiled chicken and 5 parts high-protein baby cereal. Variety is the spice of life and also keeps young birds healthy.

Top all diets with a good multivitamin supplement from your local pet store or veterinarian. You should also add a light dusting of Reptocal powder for easily absorbed calcium to help build strong bones.

Robins and other insectivores: tinned cat or dog food, preferably beef for robins small pieces of earthworm can also be offered on the end of a toothpick

Sparrows and other seed eaters: slowly scrambled eggs which can be moistened with water or fruit juice, for babies budgie seed and wild bird seed can be offered to adults

Cardinals: grapes, blueberries and other berries cut into small pieces, papaya bits dressed with budgie seed. Kaytee EXACT and papaya works great.

<http://www.threeringranch.org/babybird.html#capture>



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Questions?

Contact Jennifer Auble at
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