



MANDR HOUSE 1796-1925  
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

February 2021

The Ravensworth ***Farmer***

Issue 3

### ISO A RFCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association Board is in search of members to participate on a committee responsible for searching out and nominating a slate of candidates for the RFCA Board positions. The election of board members occurs each May at the Annual Membership meeting, which, this year, will be held on May 27, 2021.

The responsibility of the committee will be to review the responsibilities of each of the offices, search for candidates, and present the slate at the March General Membership Meeting, to be held March 25, 2021. As previously mentioned, the election will be at the May 27th meeting. The offices include: President, 1st Vice President, 2d Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary.

To assist in the search, the committee may review the responsibilities of each office, outlined in the By-Laws, which may be found on the Ravensworth Farm web site, Ravensworthfarm.org, under the tab Ravensworth Farm Membership > By-Laws. Also, each board member will provide the committee a description of their current Duties and Responsibilities.

For those interested in running for any of the positions, you may nominate yourself to the committee or at the

*Con't Pg. 3*

# FOOD DRIVE

## NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

The RFCA, Community of Christ Church, and the Boy Scouts would like to give a great big Thank You to all who gave so generously to fill the shelves at ECHO. You donated thirty, yes 30!, bags of groceries for those in need.

**Pay Dues**

Still need to join the Civic Association?  
Pay your 2020-2021 dues by sending a  
check (\$15) to:  
Ravensworth Farm Civic Association  
Box 1733  
Springfield, VA 22151-1020

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	Marcie Winnit	703-678-9074	prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1st Vice President	Scott Houghton	703-598-1431	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	703-626-9087	

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee	Margaret Kinder	703-764-9576	
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
<i>Farmer</i>	Editor Preparation Advertising, Flyers Distribution Advertising	Sara Ortiz Susan Deyampert John Ritchie Vince DeCoursey Katherine Craig	703-321-8757 703-321-3150 703-321-8427 703 850-9392 703-321-3149 rfcafamer@ravensworthfarm.org treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org rdecourceyjr@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 2020-21

MONTH	BOARD MEETING/FARMER DEADLINE/FLYERS DUE	<i>Farmer</i> DELIVERY	EVENTS
February	3	27	
March	3	20	Mar 25 – General Membership Meeting
April	7	24	
May	5	22	May 27 – General Membership Meeting
Summer			Last weekend of August 2021- BBQ

**All meetings are open to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are 7:30pm online. Contact Diwakar Sharma, Corresponding Secretary, at [CorSec@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:CorSec@ravensworthfarm.org) for a link to join.**

*Con't from Pg. 1*

May Meeting. Once formed, the members of the Nominating Committee will be named and published on Facebook, in The Farmer, and on the web site. Also, anyone may nominate someone from the floor if the nominator has the approval of the person being nominated.

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact Ginger Rogers at [grogers@verizon.net](mailto:grogers@verizon.net) or by phone on 703 321 1151.

### **BOY SCOUT TROOP 991 FINDS SAFE WAY TO STAY ACTIVE**

The scout motto is “Be Prepared” and Ravensworth’s Boy Scout Troop 991 has put that into practice as we continue to keep our scouts active, engaged and safe during the pandemic. This fall we were able to safely hold 3 campouts, providing a great opportunity for the scouts to get outside and have fun! Our homemade pizza dinners were a highlight!

Thanks to the support of the community, we had a very successful “Hog Fest” BBQ fundraiser in October. Your support has already allowed us to purchase some needed camping equipment. Thank you!

While we are back to meeting virtually for the next few weeks due to the Governor’s order, we hope to be back in person again soon. If you are interested in learning more about Boy Scouts visit <https://troop991.com/>. We have openings for new scouts and would welcome you!



## GEARING UP FOR THE 2021 POOL SEASON

Ravensworth Pool is kicking our planning season to have a successful and safe summer 2021 swim season.

Last year we successfully were able to operate the pool without any COVID-19 outbreaks. Members were thrilled for the ability to provide their kids much needed normalcy and an activity for the kids.

As the vaccine rolls out nationwide, we are optimistic that pools will be allowed to continue operating in Phase III (open swim with guidelines) conditions and are planning accordingly for the entire swim season. This means having swim team practices for both age groups and dive team practices.

Ravensworth Pool depends on membership to operate. This year, for Ravensworth Pool to plan appropriately for the level of membership we expect, we will be encouraging earlier decision making through our pricing structure. Be on the lookout for membership information on <http://www.ravensworthpool.com> around mid-February.

Please contact [membership@ravensworthpool.com](mailto:membership@ravensworthpool.com) for any questions, feedback from the 2020 season, or concerns. We appreciate all your support for 2020 and look forward to you joining us for the summer of 2021.

Jennifer Auble  
Membership Director  
Ravensworth Pool



**R. K. MORRIS**  
Painting  
Contractors  
Inc.

*Small Jobs Welcome* *Free Estimates*

**PAINTING & REMODELING**

Complete Services For:

- Interior & Exterior Painting • Kitchens & Bathrooms
- Wood Replacement • Trim & Crown Molding
- Finished Basements • All Flooring
- Wallpaper Removal • Handyman Services

Licensed & Insured



**703-987-7139**



## HOLIDAY LIGHTS RESULTS

Well, that didn't go as planned! Plan B was excellent, however! Between the time the last Farmer went to print and was delivered, Governor Northam's order limiting gatherings to 10 people nixed plans for an outdoor firepit-and-s'mores holiday lights judging party. Many thanks to the board members who sought an alternative rather than canceling holiday lights judging altogether. A special thank you to Elissa Myers for putting together the online Survey Monkey and collecting the results for the RFCA board.

Thank you to all who decorated their home and those who judged the Ravensworth Farm Holiday Lights.

The winners are:

- Best Overall - 5325 Ringold Place
- Best Religious - 5415 Inverchapel Road
- Best Window/Door - 8101 Carrick Lane
- Kid's Choice - 5305 Oldcastle Lane

Honorable Mention

- 5315 Moultrie Road
- 5414 Moultrie Road
- 5633 Inverchapel Road

*Congratulations*

Holiday Greetings & Notes to All from the judges

- Happy Holidays to all of you!
- Merry Christmas Ravensworth!
- Happy Holidays!
- Moultrie Road was the best decorated street!
- Happy Holidays Everyone!
- Thank you so much! We haven't driven around looking at Christmas Lights in years. Your hard work was much appreciated!
- Merry Christmas everyone!!!!!!

## CONDOLENCES

In November and December 2020 Ravensworth Farm lost four long-time residents who had been very involved in the Ravensworth Farm community.

John Schroeder – Inverchapel Rd  
 Richard “Dick” Sargent – Gosport Ln  
 Gloria Brissman – Kepler Ln  
 James “Jim” Morgan – Inverchapel Rd

*Condolences*



# Ravensworth Shell



SERVICE/REPAIRS



The Washington Area's  
Consumer Report Magazine



VA INSPECTIONS



SAFETY INSPECTIONS



GASOLINE & DIESEL

## 703-321-8280

We are on Your Team  
When it Comes to Car Care!

- ✓ *Locally Owned and Operated Since March, 1966*
- ✓ *Complete Automotive Service*
- ✓ *Foreign and Domestic*
- ✓ *Same Day Service (in most cases)*
- ✓ *12 Month/12,000 Mile Guarantee*
- ✓ *Open 7 Days-a-Week for Auto Service, Repairs and Inspections*
- ✓ *Open 24 Hours for Gasoline/Diesel*
- ✓ *Emergency Road Service*



8011 Braddock Road • Springfield, VA 22151 • [RavensworthShell.com](http://RavensworthShell.com)

In the Ravensworth Shopping Center • Braddock Rd and the Beltway



## **GET INVOLVED! YOU WON'T REGRET IT**

by Scott Houghton

It was recommended that I write up a job description for my position as 1st Vice President of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, so that someone who might be interested in taking on the role can get an idea of what's entailed. I got a little carried away as I thought about the difference community involvement has made in our family's life. Here's the rest of the story...

I did not intend to take on a leadership role with the RFCA board, let alone become the 1st Vice President, when I attended my first meeting in December of 2015. I was the Membership Director for the Ravensworth Farm Pool Board at the time and was interested in fostering a relationship between the two organizations. Membership numbers were down, I was hoping to connect with the families in the neighborhood that, for whatever reason, were not joining the pool. It turned out that the RFCA board had vacancies, and so I became the 2nd Vice President. I held both positions for one year, and finally stepped down from the Pool Board to become the 1st Vice President of RFCA.

To be honest, I never had the intention of joining the Pool Board either. I was picking my kids up at SACC one day, chatting with another dad (who was also the Treasurer for the pool at the time), who urged me to come to the membership meeting that evening, so there would be a quorum for approving the budget. He did not mention there would be officer elections and that the Membership Director position was vacant. The trap was laid, and I stumbled right in. I was the only non-board member in attendance at that meeting and won the election by unanimous vote. At first, it seemed like way too much work for the compensation (Pool Board members get free memberships), but I soon discovered how rewarding the job could be. My family and I had moved into the Farm in 2008 and had gotten to know a handful of families in four years. Suddenly, I got to know half of the neighborhood. Plus, the other pool board members turned out to be a great group of people. *That is the point where living in the Farm changed for me and my family, from a nice house with a nice school near a nice lake, to being a part of a community of great, interesting and fun people.* A place where I knew many people, and they knew me, and my children. A place where people had raised generations of families (like the recently departed but never forgotten Commander Schroeder), and a place where folks have put in hours (weeks, years!) of sweat and labor to create great spaces for our families to flourish, like Rob Hannam and Stephen Karlinchak. A great place to raise a family.

My time on the Civic Association Board has only expanded these experiences. When I got to know the Lipsey's, I found out that this land which we occupy has a bigger story, which is part of our American history. At our board meeting just this past Wednesday, Ruth Hartman told us about how, during the civil unrest of 1968 in DC, the RFCA called an emergency meeting and set up patrols at the entrances to the neighborhood in case trouble spilled over into the suburbs. I've learned that anyone can make things happen and improve the community, by learning the process and making the effort. James Walkinshaw, our current Braddock District Supervisor, was the 2nd Vice President after I became 1st Vice President (I was his "supervisor", ha!), it was amazing to work with him and get a crash course in thoughtful public service. There are so many legends living among us, like Jim Hickey and Suzanne Dorick, and Steve and Linda Beste, who quietly work on all the little things that make the Farm great, We have Thomas and Margaret Kinder, she makes everything beautiful and he captures that beauty with his camera. When VDOT considered expanding Braddock Road, Kevin Joyce went to all of the meetings to make sure our interests were represented. When the Park Authority seemed ready to let Lake Accotink fill in to become wetlands, Allan Robertson and the Save Lake Accotink group galvanized to make sure our concerns were heard. Tom Mathis created and moderated the Facebook group which has been instrumental in keeping us connected.

There are two common threads working here – **one is that we have an amazing and dynamic community, and the second is that it got to be this way because the people that live here have willed it to be so. It can be a lot of work, but the work is very rewarding and great fun.** And you end up getting to live and raise your family in a pretty special place.

*Con't Pg. 8*

*Con't from Pg. 7*

### **Job Description for 1st Vice President**

Here's what I've been doing in my role as 1st Vice President. Please contact me if you need some more detail. Keep in mind that I am willing to help out with the BBQ and maintaining the entrances, I just need someone to take over the main job. I should also mention that Ginger Rogers (Recording Secretary for RFCA) and Sara Ortiz (Farmer Editor) have been doing great and important work in the Farm for a lot longer than I have and could use some relief as well.

- Fulfill the President's duties in case of absence. Call meetings to order, lead the meeting, adjourn the meeting.
- Provide leadership for the planning and carrying out of Civic Association events. Events include: the Spring and Fall Yard Sales, Fall Festival, Summer BBQ/Awards, Holiday Lights Judging (Elissa Meyers does most of the work for this), Election Day Membership Drive (Steve and Linda Beste coordinate this), Junk Truck Day
- Schedule speakers and/or activities for the General Membership meetings (there is one annual meeting in May, and two General Membership meetings, one in March and the other in October). Also setting up the live stream video (Facebook) for meetings and assisting the President with running the meetings.
- Participate in the Braddock District Council meetings as a representative of the RFCA. One meeting per month, usually the 2nd Wednesday.
- Act as liaison for the Civic Association to work with and support other organizations in the community, such as the Boy Scouts, Community of Christ Church, PTA.
- Oversee the maintenance and upkeep of the entrances. Arrange for mowing and landscaping, repairs, and assist with sign messages when necessary.

### **AN EDITOR'S DESPERATE PLEA: REPLACE ME!**

The current editor of *The Ravensworth Farmer* has been doing the job for eight years and was ready to step down even before she began supervising virtual school. 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 submissions
- Attends a monthly board meeting (Wednesday evenings) and three annual Civic Association meetings (Thursday evenings).
- 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.
- The job usually takes 12-14 hours per month, with 4-6 hours of that being in a 1-4 day period.

If interested, please contact Sara Ortiz ([rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org)) or 571-331-9138) or Marcie Winnit ([prez@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:prez@ravensworthfarm.org)).



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY

by Erika Aspuria, Principal

We may not be in the building, but learning is still happening via online instruction. Our students, staff, and families have been working hard learning both curriculum and new technology tools. Our staff appreciates your continuous support and partnership. We know that the decision to delay returning to in-person classes has been frustrating for many, but we all want the in-person transition to be done safely for both students and staff.

For more updates or to see what is happening at Ravensworth please follow us on:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RavensworthElementary> and

Twitter <https://twitter.com/RavensworthES>

## 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.



# Jubilant Tots

- ◆ Warm and Caring
- ◆ Safe and Affordable
- ◆ Nutritious Meals and Snacks
- ◆ Arts and Crafts, Pre-School Curriculum
- ◆ Fun Outdoor/Indoor Activities
- **County Certified**
- **CPR and First Aid Trained**
- **MAT Certified**
- **Great references from the neighborhood parents**
- **Experience with varied ages**

- ◆ Ages: Newborn- 5 yrs.
- ◆ Hours: 7:30-6:00
- ◆ Full or Part time and Drop Ins are Welcome

**Shringar Rana**  
**571-338-3958**  
**ravensworthhome@gmail.com**



**No Registration Fee !!**  
**for our neighbors !!!**

# When it's time to sell your home; **YOU HAVE OPTIONS!**

When it's time to sell your home, meeting your goals and timelines can be done through a variety of options and strategies:



**Sell to a Buyer with minor updates - at no up front cost to you!**

*Work with a network of contractors who help sellers see 2x, 3x or even 4x return on updates AND will be paid at settlement meaning no out of pocket expense to you!*



**Sell quickly to a Real Estate Investor**

*When time is of the essence and convenience takes top priority.*



**Sell to a Buyer in Current "As Is" condition**

Debbie Dogrul Associates has strategies and options for every situation! We'll work with you to implement the best option for you to reach your Real Estate Goals! Every option include access to our wide array of Seller Services, including:



MOVING TRUCK



STAGING CONSULTATION



HANDYMAN SERVICES



ESTATE SALE



**Schedule Your FREE Planning Consultation**  
*Virtual and Distanced Options Available*

**(703) 425 - 3582**  
**info@teamdda.com**



Community of Christ

**Experience a Ravensworth community church where all are welcome.**

5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, VA  
(571) 281-8424 (church)

**Pastor Team:**

David Condit, Deb Van Heest, Laura Evers

**Sunday Services:**

11:00a.m. Worship Service

Look to us for year-round community events!

Follow us on Facebook @springfieldcofcongregation

**www.CofChrist.org**  
**communityofchristpastorteam@gmail.com**



**NUGENT ELECTRIC**

**Licensed \* Bonded \* Insured**  
**TOP QUALITY WORK**

**703-569-0345**

***Ravensworth Resident***

**RECIPE SWAP**

by Sara Ortiz

Since we all seem to be cooking and baking more than before, this seems like a good time for a neighborhood recipe swap. Marcie Winnit started us out in November with her recipe for Pumpkin Chocolate Chip cake. Now it's time for other Farmers to step up and share. **Send your recipes to [rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org)**. If your neighbor made delicious goodies for Christmas, get the recipe and share it with the rest of us!

My mother, Carolyn Kelley, shared her recipe for Oatmeal Chocolate Chip cookies. She doesn't remember where she initially found it nearly sixty years ago. My father's family dubbed them "Carolyn Cookies" and we all have been making them for fifty years.

# Recipe

*Recipe:* Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies

**Ingredients:**

1 c. shortening  
 3/4 c. brown sugar  
 3/4 c. white sugar  
 1 t vanilla  
 1/2 t. water  
 2 eggs  
 1-1/3 c. flour  
 1 t. salt  
 1 t. soda  
 1/2 c. flaked coconut  
 12 oz chocolate chips  
 2 c. quick oat meal  
 1/2 c. chopped nuts

**Directions:**

Beat together shortening, sugars, vanilla, water and eggs. Sift together (and then add to above) flour, salt and soda. Stir thoroughly then add coconut, chocolate chips (Mom prefers mini chips), oatmeal and nuts.

Drop onto cookie sheet, bake at 350 for 8-10 minutes. Err on the side of underbaking.

Note: These are even better if the dough sits in the fridge for anywhere from 15 minutes to 2 days before baking.

# Because Every Child Should Know How To Swim



**KIDS FIRST**  
Swim Schools  
Springfield

RAVENSWORTH SHOPPING CENTER  
**5238 PORT ROYAL ROAD**  
**SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151**  
703-321-7946

**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- 703-626-9087 or [elissa@elissamyers.com](mailto:elissa@elissamyers.com).

**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](mailto: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](http://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 [rfcfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcfarmer@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* .

<p><b>DONATIONS ACCEPTED</b></p>	<p>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</p>
<p><b>WANTED</b></p>	<p>Good used furniture for needy low income families in the Annandale Area. Needed are beds (no kings), dressers, kitchen tables &amp; chairs, sofas (under 84 inches), love seats, end tables, lamps, sheets, blankets, pillows, working flat TVs and microwaves and 9x12 clean rugs. (No sleep sofas.) Contact Annandale Christian Community for Action for pick up by emailing Bill Sinclair at <a href="mailto:billsinclair2@verizon.net">billsinclair2@verizon.net</a> or Mary Lee Dispirito at <a href="mailto:ddmld@verizon.net">ddmld@verizon.net</a>.</p>

## **ORIGINAL OWNERS - RUDY & BETTE GIERICH**

Original owners Bette and Rudy Gierich of Drayton Lane came to Ravensworth Farm from Columbus, Ohio. Rudy had studied architecture at Ohio State University and he, Bette and their eldest daughter Mindy lived in the Washington, D.C. area in the late 1950s due to Rudy's service in the Army.

The family resided in Greenbelt, Maryland while Rudy worked at Fort Meade further north in Maryland. During their time in Greenbelt, they became friends with some people who later moved to the North Springfield neighborhood on Leesville Boulevard—which is how they first learned about Ravensworth Farm.

Sixty years later, the Gierichs still live in their home across from Drayton's intersection with Nutting Drive. What was once a three-bedroom house with an unfinished basement now is a four-bedroom house with the final bedroom added downstairs when the basement was upgraded.

But the route to Ravensworth from Greenbelt was not linear.

After Rudy finished his stint in the Army, the family moved back to Columbus, where Rudy had worked in an architecture firm prior to entering the Army. The firm had told him he could return to work at the firm once he left the Army, but in the late 1950s, the economy was in a recession and the firm could not hire him again. As a result, Rudy went to work in Columbus for a consulting engineering consulting firm instead. Second daughter Kathy was born in Columbus.

After a few years in Columbus again, the friend who'd moved from Greenbelt to North Springfield suggested Rudy get back into his chosen field of architecture by applying for a government architect position in the Washington area. Rudy did just that and accepted a role in which he worked for the remainder of his career.

His job was in Bethesda at the David Taylor Model Basin, where the Navy built and tested models of ships. Years later, the facility became known as the Naval Ship Research & Development Center.

While Rudy settled into the position, Bette and the couple's two daughters at the time remained in Ohio at the home of her parents. During this time, Rudy looked for a house for the family. Thanks to his friends in North Springfield, he began looking at homes in the newer subdivision of Ravensworth Farm.

Rudy looked at three adjacent undeveloped lots on Drayton Lane where two-level ramblers would be built. He went into the sales office for the neighborhood—the first Queensberry Avenue house on the right when entering from Braddock Road and just before Adair Lane—to let them know he'd selected the lot on the highest ground of the three. But he was told that someone else had just purchased that property. He consequently agreed to the second-highest lot. All of this took place in August 1960 and the purchase occurred sight unseen for Bette.

At that time, Adair Lane was completed with residents living there. That street also featured some nicely furnished model homes used by the sales office with potential buyers. Meanwhile, construction on Bullock Lane was mostly finished and construction on Carrick Lane was getting underway.

The section of the neighborhood after Drayton—streets running perpendicular to Drayton but parallel to each other, such as Oldcastle Lane, Nutting Drive, and Moultrie Road—had dirt paths cleared with woods on either side. Clearing for lawns and building houses would come later.

Once the Gierichs purchased their home, the family lived in an Alexandria apartment while they waited for it to be completed. During this period, they were able to select fixtures and colors. They ultimately moved in during April 1961.

When they moved in, Braddock Road was a two-lane country road and the Beltway had been cleared and graded but not yet paved. Rudy carpooled to his job in Bethesda by heading up Shirley Highway (known now as Interstate 395) to the Key Bridge and then going west on MacArthur Boulevard in the District. Such a commute took about an hour. Even back then, Shirley Highway near the Pentagon could be a congested area.

*Con't Pg. 18*





For a FREE estimate, call **703-385-1641**  
or visit [www.craigslawn.com](http://www.craigslawn.com)

## ***Affordable Mowing Services To Meet Your Budget***

*5th Mow Free\* Senior Citizen Discount\*\**

**CLC**  
**CRAIG'S LAWN CARE**  
EST. 1985 / LICENSED & INSURED

### **OTHER SERVICES WE PROVIDE**

- Yard Cleanup
- Mulching
- Deseeding of Beds
- Shrub Trimming
- Aeration & Overseeding
- Leaf Removal
- Gutter Cleaning



*\*Limit one per new customer only for those who sign up for regular service*

*\*\*Applies to regular mowing service only*

Convenient Before & After Hours Pickup

# **CAPITAL CAR CARE**

*Complete Automotive Service*

*Established 1977*

**7978 Forbes Place**

(behind Ravensworth Shopping Center)

# **703-321-8981**

60 Years of Servicing Cars by Three Generations of Sterns

7:30am - 5 pm M-F

“Early bird” drop off

# Call Crowley for all your plumbing (and HVAC) needs

## Jim Crowley Master Plumber

We Are Now Performing HVAC Service!

We Do Furnace and Air Conditioner Repairs, Seasonal Check-Ups, and Full System Replacements.

Our HVAC Mechanic Has Over 30 Years Experience With Commercial & Residential HVAC.

SAVE \$50\*

No travel charge for customers in Ravensworth Farm

\* Applies to first visit only



**Call Crowley for all of your plumbing (and HVAC) needs.**

# (571) 329-3226

7715 Erie Street, Annandale, VA 22003 • Licensed & Insured

*Con't from Pg. 14*

Once the Beltway was completed and connected to Maryland, he commuted on this new thoroughfare. At first, one had to get off the Beltway around Tyson's Corner; Rudy believes the state had trouble acquiring the land around that area, hence the delay in construction. Later, when the Beltway was completely finished, he could be at his Bethesda office in 20 minutes and he reminisces today that sometimes he would only pass a handful of cars commuting on the Beltway.

Once the couple moved into Ravensworth, they began developing friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Many of these other couples have moved away or passed away. In some cases, their children remain in Ravensworth Farm or nearby and the Gierichs keep in touch with these peers of their daughters.

At first, however, they felt as if they were surrounded by a clique of military families who socialized only with each other. The Gierichs, meanwhile, continued to spend a lot of time with several friends in North Springfield. They also participated in bowling and bridge clubs with Ravensworth neighbors for many years. For almost six decades, they have been attending St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield—on Backlick Road across from Lynnbrook Elementary School.

There was no elementary school, shopping center or pool when the Gierichs began their nearly 60-year residence on the Farm. They characterized the area as having a rural feel at the time and as decades went by, they witnessed an enormous amount of development. Shirley Highway was not nearly as congested in the 1960s and the highway south of downtown Springfield was a small road with little traffic. Rudy even remembers the area from what it was like back in 1954 when he first spent time at Fort Belvoir with the Army.

The couple would shop at a Kroger and Safeway in Springfield and take the kids for ice cream at Gifford's near Bailey's Crossroads. In later years, they became big fans of Kilroy's.

Rudy served on a committee to help design the community's pool property and still has the drawings he made for the first proposed design for the project. But the ultimate design came from a hired contractor.

The couple's third daughter Anna was born in the late 1960s. Whereas the first two daughters went to different schools due to the lack of an elementary school in the neighborhood during the early years and rezoned school districts, Anna completed all of her elementary years at Ravensworth. All of the daughters attended Poe Intermediate, but eldest daughter Mindy was routed through three different high schools before graduation: Annandale, West Springfield and finally Robinson. Middle daughter Kathy completed all of her high school years at Robinson while Anna completed all of hers at Annandale.

As the three girls advanced in school, they participated in Girl Scouts and Bette volunteered to help out the group's leader. The Gierichs remember hikes, picnics and cookouts at Lake Accotink with the Girl Scouts. The couple also participated in the PTA at Ravensworth Elementary. When the daughters were teenagers, they worked at places like Pizza Bazzano and Drug Fair in the Ravensworth Shopping Center as well as Woodies, Fisher Hardware and J.C. Penney—only the last of which is still in business.

These days, the three sisters, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren visit regularly for dinners, birthdays and anniversaries. A fiftieth anniversary celebration took place at the now-defunct Lazy Susan in Woodbridge.

Rudy explained that he and Bette moved seven times in the first six years of their marriage and that when they moved to Ravensworth Farm, they both hoped it would be a lasting, permanent home. Nearly sixty years later and still living in the same house, it seems their wish has come true.

## **ORIGINAL OWNER BARBARA KOELBEL**

*More than Fifty Years in One of Ravensworth's Last Houses Constructed:  
Fondly Recalling Family Life on Ravenel's Ravine*

Original Ravensworth Farm owner Barbara Koelbel (pronounced KELble) has lived in our neighborhood for 53 years as of January 2021. That's a shorter time than most other original owners and there's a special reason for that, which Barbara shared during a November 2020 interview. She explained the story behind four houses on Ravenel Lane and why these veritable newcomers did not go on sale until a few years after the rest of the subdivision.

This mother of two, who is now a great-grandmother, deemed Ravensworth "a wonderful community." She keeps abreast of Farm happenings through the neighborhood's Facebook page. That's where she saw the notice that the Farmer newsletter was looking to tell the personal stories of original owners. Fortunately, she volunteered to share her family's perspective—and an interesting twist related to four addresses in our midst.

Barbara's journey to Ravensworth Farm started in Ohio, where she went to high school in Brookfield, just northeast of Youngstown. She did not go to college because family finances were slim, and student loans were not available in that era. While a high school senior, she was recruited to be what were then referred to as "government girls"—meaning young women hired by the federal government from different parts of the country in the 1950s. They were invited to Washington for the sake of filling clerical and other positions.

When Barbara passed the recruitment test and was offered a job by Uncle Sam, she wasted no time in moving to the nation's capital. On June 1, 1955—very shortly after her high school graduation—she boarded a plane for the first time and traveled from home for the first time. That plane took her to the District of Columbia, where she knew not a soul.

Her new employer, the U.S. Navy, housed her at a women's residence on 16th Street, NW called the Meridian Hill Hotel. Young women from around the nation got to know each other there and then often joined together to sign leases for apartments. At the hotel, Barbara met two others with whom she obtained an apartment in Arlington.

The next year, Barbara married her first husband—the one with whom she moved to Ravensworth Farm in the 1960s. His name was Samuel Thomas "Tom" Baldwin. They met while Tom was in the Navy and stationed in Anacostia at what was then called the Naval Air Station. Their first home was with Tom's parents in Arlington.

After spending four years in the Navy, Tom began working for a small company in Falls Church on Arlington Boulevard and joined the Naval Air Reserve. He also sold life insurance part-time. At this time, the Baldwins bought their first home—a small house called a "California contemporary" with no basement or attic in the Pine Spring subdivision of Falls Church.

After having two children, the couple decided to look for a larger house. One day in late 1967, following a drive on the Beltway, Barbara and Tom came upon Queensberry Avenue and noticed a group of four homes under construction on Ravenel Lane at Ravenel's western intersection with Queensberry.

These homes are likely the last group to be constructed in Ravensworth Farm. Why? Barbara said that the four homes on Ravenel closest to Queensberry with an arm of Accotink Creek directly behind them—that is, the odd-numbered homes 5677 through 5683—were finished later than the rest of the subdivision because the ravine was initially too steep to build the houses.

It was only after J. E. Kidwell, who was a developer different than the creator of Ravensworth Farm, filled in the ravine, which used to begin at the street, that homes could be placed on these lots. Whereas the rest of the neighborhood was completed in the early 1960s, these four houses did not become available for sale until 1967. In fact, Barbara provided an aerial photo of Ravensworth Farm from the early 1960s clearly showing the four lots without houses on them.



**Ravensworth Farm's  
Appreciation Day  
EVERY TUESDAY**

**Present this flyer AT Kilroy's and get 20%  
off your total purchase**

**Not valid with other offers or discounts**

**Dine in only**

**Not valid on Happy Hour Specials**

**Not including alcohol**

**5250 Port Royal Rd. Springfield, Va. 22151**

**703-321-7733**



# Ravensworth Farm Pool Register Today!

## CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

*"I love this pool. The community is warm and welcoming and the kids have made lifelong friends here, as have I" - Heidi*

*"We joined the pool in 2010/11. We absolutely love being members there. They have a phenomenal swim and dive team, excellent lifeguards, and a wonderful pool compound. There are also wonderful activities held throughout the swim season. You feel like you're a part of a family. We are sad every time it closes for the season, but eagerly look forward to opening day!" - Lisa*

*"I drove past your pool and the pool and grounds look amazing! We have 4 kids so we wanted to have a nice playground and grounds. Most of the others we drove to see were not nearly as nice as yours!" - Paige*

*Submit your testimonial by emailing [membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com](mailto:membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com)*

*We love our pool ♥ the kids have so much fun! -Sheilait*



- ✓ **Swim Team**
- ✓ **Dive Team**
- ✓ **Learn to Swim Program**
- ✓ **Playground**
- ✓ **Mushroom Kiddie pool**
- ✓ **Snack bar**
- ✓ **Volleyball Courts**
- ✓ **BBQs**
- ✓ **Fun activities all summer long!**



### Questions?

Contact Jennifer Auble at

[Membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com](mailto:Membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com)

*Con't from Pg. 19*

Barbara and Tom decided they wanted to buy 5681 with its three bedrooms, basement, two fireplaces, and steeply sloped backyard that meets the creek. After closing in December 1967, they moved in during January 1968.

The couple would ultimately finish the basement by creating a sizeable rec room and adding in a third bathroom. They would also remove a dining room window that faced the backyard and add in a sliding glass door opening onto a large deck that faced the Accotink trail. The family spent much time on this deck, enjoying its privacy and connection to the woods. Despite all these changes, Barbara reports that the home today still has its original oven, kitchen sink, kitchen cabinets and bathroom fixtures.

Throughout those early years in the neighborhood, the family would go to Clarendon to shop in department stores and then to the shopping centers at Seven Corners and Landmark. At the Ravensworth Shopping Center, she remembers patronizing businesses that have not been there for years: Drug Fair, Pizza Bazzano, and The Raven gift shop.

The Baldwins' proximity to the lake meant much time spent in the park and walking the trails. Barbara remembers her kids playing in the woods frequently. Other recreation time was spent visiting Tom's relatives at their Chesapeake Bay cottage with a private sandy beach in Fairhaven, Maryland. Tom and Barbara later bought the cottage three doors up, and she still owns this house. Weekends and vacations were spent in Fairhaven where the family made good use of their motor boat. The Baldwin family also enjoyed Sunday drives out Braddock Road and Sideburn Road when the area was so undeveloped that it was like taking a drive in the country.

While living on the Farm, Barbara worked for 38 years with the Navy and then the Department of Defense—first in the now-raised Navy Annex Building on Columbia Pike near the Pentagon and then in Crystal City. Her position focused on finance and accounting, and she often carpooled. She retired in 1994.

Barbara explained that her busy schedule prevented her from getting as involved in Ravensworth activities as she would have liked to have been. But she was especially close to neighbors who lived nearby in her immediate area of Ravenel Lane. Most of those people have since moved or passed away, she noted.

"I always knew I could count on my neighbors if I needed help," she said. "They were always very friendly."

Barbara lost Tom 35 years ago after he died of a brain tumor at only 52 years old. The first sign of trouble was while holiday shopping at Tyson's Corner mall in 1981. Tom grabbed Barbara's hand, said he felt ill, and took a seat in a chair at The Hecht Company's cosmetics counter, where he ultimately had to lie down on the floor. Tom was transported to Fairfax Hospital from the mall and an initial diagnosis was a stroke.

Tom kept working via a special disability program until his retirement in 1982. After Tom's first surgery at Fairfax Hospital, Barbara continued to work. NIH later accepted Tom into an experimental treatment program and performed another surgery that allowed him to live for another two and a half years until June 1985. Tom's final days were spent at a hospice in Arlington that Barbara visited every day after work.

Tom was also frequently visited at home and in the hospice by co-workers, including a man named Joe Koelbel. Joe's wife had died from cancer and he helped Barbara through this difficult period with his kindness and understanding. After Tom passed, Barbara became friends with Joe. The two later married in 1996.

Joe had sold his house and moved in on Ravenel Lane, enjoying many long walks in the woods with Barbara. Joe passed away in 2013. He had seven children, many grandchildren and some great-grandchildren. These descendants frequently visit Barbara on the Farm and she remains close to them.

As she continues to make her home in Ravensworth, where she has now spent more than five decades of her life, Barbara, of course, stays strongly connected to her own children.

*Con't Pg. 23*

*Con't from Pg. 22*

Daughter Sharon graduated from Annandale High School in 1977. Sharon married her high school sweetheart, Owen Griffing, and moved to the North Springfield neighborhood. Her husband has since passed away, and her two daughters now live in San Francisco and Vancouver. Barbara has a great-granddaughter that she has not yet seen in person because of the pandemic and another great-grandchild is on the way.

Son Gregg graduated from Annandale in 1980, lived in Annapolis for many years, and now lives with his wife Kelly in a suburb of Las Vegas near her family. Barbara notes that Gregg and Kelly were married in a Las Vegas chapel by an Elvis impersonator and that she—the mother of the groom—attended the event via FaceTime video on her iPad. Barbara said the ceremony was very nicely done and memorable fun for all involved.

“I am grateful and thankful that Ravensworth has stayed as nice it has,” said Barbara, who has that special claim of being the only original owner remaining in the Farm’s so-called newest batch of houses.

*"I CAN GET IT WORKING AGAIN  
OR  
FIND YOU A BETTER USED MACHINE"*



Tune-ups: \$79.99 plus parts  
(Lawn Tractors \$155.95 plus parts)

Lawn Mowers - Lawn Tractors  
Weed Eaters - Power Washers  
Chain Saws  
and much more

**Bryant's Lawnmower Repair  
And Tune-ups**  
18 years experience

5532 Queensberry Avenue  
— In Ravensworth Farm —

**Call Coey Bryant 571-244-5760**

**House &  
Apartment  
FOR RENT**



### House

The house is listed on airbnb under Simpers retreat house, it was part of the underground railroad. It is located on an active farm with diversest livestock in scenic Delaplane. The house is nestled among historical landmarks and rolling valleys and forested mountain sides teaming with wild life. Located in the vicinity of various wineries sleeps 10-12 people.

### Beach House & Apt

Also have a beach house and apt for rent  
at Rehoboth Beach.

**Contact—Kathy Strother  
(540) 303-6694 or (703) 321-9757**

## Boy Scout Flag-Service Fundraiser

- ★ Support your local scout unit (Troop 829) in raising camp funds.
- ★ For a reasonable donation, our scouts will display a large American flag in your yard on four national holidays.
- ★ They will set up the flag at sunrise and retrieve it at sunset.

The donation for this service is a tax deductible \$40

This service takes place on the following holidays:

- President's Day 2021
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2021
- Memorial Day 2021
- Labor Day 2021

**Payment Options for Check or Cash (drop off or pick up only):**

<p><b>Mail or Drop Off:</b>                  BSA Troop 829                  8319 Queen Elizabeth Blvd.                  Annandale, VA 22003</p>	<p><b>Arrange a pick up:</b>                  Email <a href="mailto:Troop829Flags@gmail.com">Troop829Flags@gmail.com</a> or                  Call 703-323-6584 to schedule a Scout to                  come by and pick up your donation.</p>
---	---

- Please detach the section below and send it with your donation -

Please sign me up! I support these Scouts!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



Amount Paid:	Subscription: <input type="checkbox"/> \$40	** Other donations also welcome!
	Other: <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

**Please make check payable to: Troop 829 NCAC-BSA**

Thank you for your generous support!