



MANDR HOUSE 1796-1925  
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

April 2021

The Ravensworth ***Farmer***

Issue 5

### **THURSDAY - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Megan McLaughlin, School Board Member for Braddock District, will be the main speaker at the Thursday, March 25 General Membership Meeting of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association. She will touch on topics ranging from Fairfax County students' return to in-person learning, FCPS' "Back to Fairfax" program designed to bring FCPS alumnus back to FCPS to teach, and the new "Trade for Tomorrow" trade and vocational training.

Other speakers at the March 25 meeting will include Jen Auble from the Ravensworth Farm Pool board and an update from Save Lake Accotink regarding planned dredging and related topics. There will also be an update on the nominating committee's activities and an opportunity for those interested in serving on the Civic Association's board to hear more about that.

Due to the ongoing restriction on group gatherings, the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm. Use the meeting ID and passcode below to join at [www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us). If you're reading this online, you can click on the link below.

*Con't Pg. 3*

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## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

**Still need to join the Civic Association?**

You can do so online at

**<http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org>**

**OR, 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

**P.O. BOX 1773, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151**

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Marcie Winit	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 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org rdecourseyjr@verizon.net ads@ravensworthfarm.org
Community Organizations			
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Megan Farinholt		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
March	3	20	Mar 25 – General Membership Meeting www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 849 6113 2240 Passcode: 966972
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 for a link to join.

*Con't from Pg. 1*

### ZOOM Info

Topic: RFCA - March 2021 General Membership Meeting  
Time: Mar 25, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting using this link (from online Farmer)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961132240?pwd=eUJsYitmQURTWk5iaW5uQUhWL0RIUT09>

or typing in this meeting information at www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 849 6113 2240

Passcode: 966972

### READ SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK!

The current editor of The Ravensworth Farmer has been doing the job for nine 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 yearly stipend is available.

If interested, please contact Sara Ortiz (rfcafamer@ravensworthfarm.org or 571-331-9138) or Marcie Winitt (prez@ravensworthfarm.org).

**HELP WANTED**

### 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 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 next year's directory, email directory@ravensworthfarm.org with a parent's phone number and in which categories you would like to be listed.

## **HOG FEST - MAY 8**

Troop 991 Hog Fest Returns May 8

Thanks to the overwhelming support from our neighbors Boy Scout Troop 991 had a very successful first annual Hog Fest. We're planning a spring event on Saturday May 8 with more details to come. We hope to see neighbors and friends for some pulled pork, burgers, hot dogs, and more!

Interested in learning more about Boy Scouts? Troop 991 has been in Ravensworth for over 60 years! We are a very active, boy led troop. Learn more at [www.troop991.com](http://www.troop991.com)

## **DIVE INTO SUMMER**

There's much excitement & anticipation surrounding the Ravens' 2021 dive season! Though there is some uncertainty regarding COVID, the NVSL is planning on a full season. More detailed information will be available as we get closer to the start of the season. Please note, there is no experience needed to join the team! Our coaches have the ability to break down even the most difficult dives into simple steps. We have an exciting season ahead with our Tuesday night meets, Sunday pep rallies, and we will be capping off the season by hosting Division 5 Divisionals!

Requirements to join the team:

1. The dive team is open to all children, up to the age of 18, who are current members at Ravensworth Farm Pool.
2. Divers must be able to swim to the ladder in the dive well area.
3. Please note, no dive experience is required - just bring an eagerness to learn and commit a minimum of 45 minutes per practice. (Practices are weekday mornings.)

See you on the Deck!



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## **POOL REGISTRATION ONGOING**

Summer is close and registration for Ravensworth Pool season 2021 is open. Our current plan is to have a swim team for both age groups and a dive team (see Dive Team news in this issue). Information on Fledglings learn to swim program is currently being worked out and will be communicated through emails. To receive a learn-to-swim email when it goes out, contact Jennifer Auble, Membership Director, at [membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com](mailto:membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com).

The pool will be open for members starting Memorial Day weekend. We do not plan to rent out the pool as we expect more folks will be able to join the pool this year. As it is important for us to plan for another unusual swim season, we are encouraging members to join earlier than usual.

**The first early bird rate is on March 30 so be sure to register!**

<b>Early Bird Deadlines</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Two Person</b>	<b>Seniors</b>
Until March 30th	\$525	\$375	\$300
April 1st - May 5th	\$550	\$390	\$320
May 6 and later	\$575	\$405	\$330

While there is normally a one-time new member/reactivation charge to renew your account if you were not a member or did not pay a deposit the previous year, we are waiving this \$50 charge until March 30 due to the unusual circumstances of 2020.

We are doing our very best to ensure that we have a successful 2021 swim season. We sincerely appreciate all your support. Timely additional information will always come out through our membership emails. If you currently do not receive them or would like more information about joining the pool, please contact Jen Auble at [membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com](mailto:membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com)

## **NEWS AT RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY**

*by Erika Aspuria, Principal*

### **Mr. Ed Shelesky**

Ed Shelesky, former fourth grade teacher at Ravensworth ES, recently passed away of preexisting conditions. A Clemson graduate, Mr. Shelesky taught in FCPS for 40 years until his retirement last year. During his career he taught at Beech Tree Elementary, Canterbury Woods Elementary, and Ravensworth Elementary. Mr. Shelesky loved teaching Virginia Studies and sharing his love of reading with his students. We are lucky to have known and had Mr. Shelesky as part of the Ravensworth Family. Mr. Shelesky's family is asking for any contributions in his honor be sent to Ravensworth Elementary School. The funds will go toward planting a tree on campus in his honor.

### **Ravensworth News**

We have had a successful start with our in-person learning. Students and teachers are adapting to the new schedule and procedures. We continue to keep the health and safety of everyone as our top priority. We are also mindful that many of our students are continuing to learn from home. Whether in-person or virtual we are #RavensWorth- Our Ravens Are Worth It!

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>



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**NO MORE PLASTIC BAGS FOR YARD WASTE**

Joining several neighboring communities in the D.C. Metro Area that have banned the use of plastic bags for yard waste, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday amended the county’s Solid Waste Management ordinance, which now prohibits the use of plastic bags for set out and collection of yard waste.

The change takes effect on Monday, March 1 and will require county residents who have curbside collection of yard waste to **use reusable containers or paper yard waste bags to set out grass, leaves and brush**. Although the new rule takes effect March 1, the Solid Waste Management Program will be exercising enforcement discretion for a six-week period to allow time for customer notification and education on the new rule. Enforcement will begin Monday, April 19, 2021.

It has been noted that pieces of plastic bags, shredded during the composting process, end up being re-introduced into the environment when the compost is applied in gardens, yards, and other similar projects. Prohibiting plastic bags removes plastic pollution from the yard waste being made into compost.

A number of environmental and conservation organizations, including the Audubon Society, 350Fairfax, and the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions have voiced their support of the change.

"Eliminating single-use plastic bags that otherwise get shredded and mixed into compost, contaminating our soils, water, and eventually us, just makes sense. We concur with the Board’s decision to make this change, and we’re glad to see Fairfax County finally joining its neighbors in the region to do this," said Renee Grebe, Northern Virginia Conservation Advocate with the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Results from a study conducted in 2019 show approximately 50 percent of residents already have stopped using plastic bags for yard waste. Plastic bags set out at residences after April 19 may be left uncollected.

Residents also can deliver their yard waste to the I-95 Landfill Complex and the I-66 Transfer Station. At those locations yard waste in paper bags or reusable containers will be accepted. As of April 19, 2021, yard waste in plastic bags delivered to the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill will be rejected. Commercial yard waste loads containing plastic bags delivered after April 19, 2021 will be subject to a penalty fee of \$100/ton.

Source:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/news/county-leaders-approve-elimination-plastic-bags-yard-waste>

**HOW TO MANAGE YARD WASTE**

Yard waste includes grass clippings, leaves, straw, flowers, small prunings, and brush (i.e., branches and twigs smaller than 4-feet in length) generated during general yard maintenance. Yard waste does not include materials generated during tree removal, land clearing, or home renovation projects such as tree stumps, lumber treated wood, pallets, sawdust, dirt, mulch, sod, or food waste.

**Manage it onsite**

Leave grass clippings on your lawn by grasscycling, and/or backyard composting yard waste along with other organics, such as food waste, to enrich your soil and promote healthy plants. For more information, visit

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/organic-waste>.

**Set it out for curbside collection\***

Use a reusable container or paper yard bags. Yard waste placed in plastic bags may not be collected. If you are a county collection customer, follow County instructions. If a private hauler collects your trash, please follow their instructions. [Editor’s Note: Effective January 1st, 2021, American Disposal Service will no longer collect yard debris in plastic bags. Republic/AAA does not have yard waste information readily available on its website.]

*Con't from Pg. 7*

### **Self-haul to a county facility**

Yard waste is accepted at the county's I-95 Landfill Complex and the I-66 Transfer Station disposal sites for a fee. As of April 19, 2021, yard waste in plastic bags delivered to the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill will be rejected. Commercial yard waste loads containing plastic bags delivered after April 19, 2021 will be subject to a penalty fee of \$100/ton.

### **Landscapers**

Landscapers should not place yard waste in plastic bags for curbside collection. Yard waste placed in plastic bags may not be collected. See Yard Waste Guidance for Landscaping Companies flyer at

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/pdf/publications/yard-waste-transition-flyer-landscapers.pdf>. It is available in English and Spanish.

\*Please Note: yard waste is collected at curbside year-round, but only processed for recycling from March 1 through December 24. With the exception of Christmas trees which are collected and recycled the first two weeks in January, the small amount of yard waste generated is disposed of as trash.

Source: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/yard-waste>

## **YOUR INFORMATION NEEDED**

Please send along the address (and name, if you know it) for new neighbors, new babies, or deaths. New neighbors' names (adult or infant) will only be reported in The Ravensworth Farmer with their permission. If you are a new neighbor and haven't received a visit from Cindy Cho of the New Neighbor Committee, please let her know you are here at choc64@gmail.com.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Is your listing in the neighborhood directory still accurate? If not, please send an update to Steve Beste, the directory editor. 703-321-9110 or email [Directory@RavensworthFarm.org](mailto:Directory@RavensworthFarm.org) If you haven't seen a 2021 directory yet, join the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association at <http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org/> or by calling Elissa Myers at 703-626-9087.

## **CONDOLENCES**

Dan Medigovich, of Queensberry Avenue, was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on March 5. We wish to extend condolences to his wife, Kay.





**EASTER AT IMMANUEL BIBLE CHURCH**

After canceling their 2020 Easter pageant due to the shutdowns surrounding the arrival of the novel coronavirus in the area, Immanuel Bible Church has redesigned their annual Easter event as a cantata. God So Loved will be presented March 25-28. A variety of seating options are available, with the most-spaced options on Thursday, March 25. Ticket and seat reservations are required. Please see <https://immanuelbible.church/easter-cantata> for information and tickets.

The church notes, “As much as we would love for everyone to experience this year’s Easter event, we understand that it may be impossible for many in our community. Our production of God So Loved is being fully recorded and produced to be available online free of charge. If you would like to be emailed a link to the finished product please email garretson@ibc.church. Everyone who buys a ticket or is on our concert mailing list will automatically receive an email reminder.”

**ADVERTISE IN THE FARMER**

Reach more than 856 homes with news of your services or merchandise seven times over the 2020-2021 year. Contact Katherine Craig at ads@ravensworthfarm.org for information on permanent ads in the body of The Ravensworth Farmer.

If you just want to advertise a few months, you can include a simple flyer at the end of The Ravensworth Farmer by sending a .doc of your flyer and payment of \$70.80 (\$45 flyer cost + copying cost for 860 copies of the flyer at \$.03/page) to Ravensworth Farm Civic Association attn: John Ritchie before each month’s flyer due date (see page 2). Flyer payment is by the month. Flyers will not be included the following month without new payment. You can reach John at 703-321-8427 or treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org to coordinate payment.

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## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Hello Farmers!

Due to the pandemic, we haven't been able to source as many block captains as we have in previous years. If you have not already, please pay your Ravensworth Farm Civic Association dues online at <http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org/>

Eligibility for COVID-19 vaccines in Fairfax County are still on Phase 1a (health care personnel and long-term care facility residents and staff) and Phase 1b (adults 65+, adults 16-64 with a high-risk medical condition or disability that increases their risk of severe illness from COVID-19, childcare/k-12 teachers/staff and law enforcement officers).

If you qualify, please register to get the vaccine at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>

Dates for the other Phase 1b frontline essential workers will be announced in the future; these include people living in correctional facilities, homeless shelters and migrant labor camps, and frontline essential workers: police, fire, hazmat, corrections and homeless shelter workers, food and agriculture, manufacturing, grocery store workers, public transit workers, mail carriers, officials needed to maintain continuity of government, clergy/faith leaders, and janitorial/cleaning staff.

RFCA needs your help! We have three positions that need a new volunteer; all of the current volunteers will be happy to train how to serve in the following capacity:

- Editor of Farmer
- Recording Secretary
- First Vice President

Stay safe & healthy,  
Marcie

## **THE GOOD DOCTOR ON JUXON PLACE: REFLECTING ON SIXTY YEARS OF FAMILY LIFE IN RAVENSWORTH FARM**

*by Robert Blizzard*

Almost sixty years in Ravensworth Farm began for original owner Dr. Reg McManus of Juxon Place when he purchased in 1961 after seeing only a wooded lot with stakes in the ground marking where the house would be. The strong recommendation of a home inspector—who happened to be the father of a friend who was an original owner on Carrick Lane—helped spur him on.

During a December 2020 interview, Reg—a retired internal medicine physician who practiced in Northern Virginia for more than five decades and recently turned 90 years old—shared how he came to this community. Ravensworth Farm is where he and his now-deceased wife Kathleen, known as Kathy, raised five children and started them all down paths to incredible professional success.

The story begins in Bangor, Maine, where Reg grew up as one of eight children. His parents were not educated. Reg's mother had not attended school beyond the third grade and his father taught himself to read.

Reg said his father was an iceman whose days began at 2:30 a.m. in the summer when demand for ice was high but at 7:30 a.m. in the winter. In those early morning wintertime hours when Reg's father would normally be working during warmer weather, he would peruse the newspaper as part of his effort to improve his reading skills. Reg noticed his father frequently reviewed the obituaries page and once asked him why he spent so much time looking at who died. His father joked that the obits were the "Irish sports page" and that he wanted to know "who got to the barn first."

*Con't Pg. 14*

# Because Every Child Should Know How To Swim



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

Block captains deliver pre-paid Directory orders and sign up new Civic Association members and deliver Directories on the spot. Forty of your neighbors volunteered last year. However, many streets didn't have active block captains so membership was down- resulting in a significant reduction in budget for Civic Association activities. Sign up for a block near you or be adventurous and visit the other side of the neighborhood! Contact Elissa Myers to be a block captain- 703-626-9087 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 [rcaf farmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rcaf farmer@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>DECORATED CAKES</b></p>	<p>Teen Farmer will decorate cakes or cupcakes for your event or party or just for fun. One to five dozen cupcakes or one to three cakes per event. Advance notice necessary to work it in around school. Text or call Rebekah at 703-321-8757 with questions or to receive a link to cake albums.</p>
<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 – 571-331-9138</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>

*Con't from Pg. 11*

Reg still fondly remembers seeing his father at the kitchen table by the stove intently looking at the newspaper. And, today, Reg reads three newspapers a day as well as the New England Journal of Medicine.

Like her future husband, Kathy also grew up in Bangor with seven siblings. The couple had known each other since he was 13 and she was 14. Reg jokes that she proposed to him. But, because education was of great importance to them, they wanted to delay their marriage until Kathy finished nursing school in Portland, Maine.

In the meantime, Reg arrived in the District of Columbia to attend medical school from 1952 to 1956 at George Washington University. The couple married in 1955 once Kathy finished her nursing degree and Reg was about to start his final year of medical school. He pointed out that Kathy was a stellar nursing student who served as president of the state of Maine's student nurses association, presented a paper at a national conference in Chicago, and interned at Pratt Institute in Baltimore to gain experience in psychiatric nursing.

Upon graduating, Reg joined the Air Force and trained at the Army's Walter Reed Hospital in the District since the Air Force was still part of the Army. During this period, Kathy first worked at the now-defunct Emergency Hospital on E Street, NW near the White House. She then concentrated on pediatrics when she became an operating room nurse at Children's Hospital.

Later, after the couple began having children, Reg was assigned to Andrews Air Force Base. As the 1950s came to an end, Reg, Kathy and their oldest children were living in a Southeast Washington apartment. But the new decade brought much change.

In July 1960, Reg started his own internal medicine practice in Virginia. At first, his office was in the Lyon Village area of Arlington near Fort Myer, though in 1966 he would relocate the practice to the Clarendon section of Arlington in an office where his eldest son now practices. Before this relocation, however, Ravensworth Farm entered the McManuses' lives in 1961.

While living in the District, the couple made several friends with other nearby young couples who all had children about the same age. One woman they knew was interested in moving to Maryland and her father was a home inspector who accompanied her on house-hunting excursions. One day in the spring of 1961, Reg learned that this woman had looked at homes in Fairfax County and planned to purchase one, even though she'd previously insisted on living in Maryland.

The woman, Esther Stepahin, and her husband George—both now deceased but also original owners in Ravensworth Farm—ended up buying a house on Carrick Lane. Esther's father, the home inspector, had thoroughly examined the house and deemed it the best-built house he'd seen in the area. The Stepahins then convinced Reg and Kathy to look at homes in Ravensworth and the McManuses decided they would.

The couple wanted a four-bedroom split-level because they already had three children with one more on the way. Up till then, they'd all been crowded into a two-bedroom apartment so they were eager to spread out.

The Ravensworth Farm developer's sales office showed Reg the map of the subdivision, most of which had not been built. Reg decided he liked Juxon Place because the homes were split-levels and a cul-de-sac seemed like it would be a nice environment. The problem was no houses were yet built on Juxon. The salesman took Reg down an unpaved Drayton Lane, where slabs for houses were being poured, and walked him through the unfenced backyard of one of the lots to see the Juxon property that Reg would ultimately buy.

At the time, the lot was all woods. Only stakes were in the ground showing where the house would be. Reg was told the house would be ready by the end of the summer, so Kathy and he paid a down payment and moved in on Labor Day of 1961. It would be the first time since he left home in Bangor at age 17 that he would live in a house.

Meanwhile, the McManuses saw their family grow. Beginning in 1957, they had five children: Christopher, Kathleen, Patrick, John, and Anne Marie, called Anna by the family. Reg notes that Kathy had ten pregnancies altogether. Four of those pregnancies resulted in babies who lived only two or three days due to conditions associated with premature birth; all of these little ones were buried at Arlington Cemetery. Kathy also had one miscarriage.

*Con't Pg. 18*



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*Con't from Pg. 14*

“Because of our careers, my wife and I had experienced the frailty of human life and my wife’s deep, abiding faith helped her get through such difficult experiences,” explained Reg. “We’d been exposed to life-or-death situations as part of our everyday lives and we understood the possibilities of high-risk pregnancies.”

These days, Christopher is a physician who has practiced for 30 years. Several years ago, he joined his father’s practice, which is now Christopher’s own practice. Kathleen has a Ph.D. in geology and has worked with Exxon in Houston for 30 years. Patrick is also a doctor of internal medicine; he has a private practice in Fredericksburg. John is a real estate attorney who worked in Fairfax for many years but now practices in Fredericksburg. Anna lives in Maine, where she works as a marketing manager for L.L. Bean.

All of Reg’s children, except one, completed their undergraduate degrees at Reg’s alma mater in Maine: Bowdoin College. Before that, however, they attended Ravensworth Elementary School. Decades later, Reg still has high praise for the original principal, Ronald Carpenter: “He made that school and motivated his team to do their best.”

Reg sees the neighborhood as an idyllic place. The Juxon Place cul-de-sac was “always alive with kids playing” and he met “tremendous people” in Ravensworth.

He says the military presence in the neighborhood is one reason why it was such a nice place to live. For example, he credits Farm residents in the military with bringing a pool to the neighborhood. A committee of Ravensworth men obtained approval to use the land left by the Crestwood developer at the intersection of Inverchapel Road and Adair Lane, near the western entrance to the community from Braddock Road. They raised \$110,000 from residents, planned the pool construction, set up a dues-paying system and ensured the entire project was properly carried out. These men used their military experience of building community pools and developing them into self-sufficient subscription organizations for the benefit of everyone in the neighborhood.

Reg remembers the pool fondly and says it was a wonderful place to meet neighbors and have children engage in competitive swimming and diving. Populated by nuclear families, the subdivision, he reminisced, always seemed to be having cookouts and holiday celebrations attended by parents and children. Kids were always spending time with each other and riding bicycles.

One of Reg’s fond memories is acknowledging the completion of Capital Beltway construction by packing the children into his 1969 Mustang convertible, putting the top down and driving everyone for an hour to enjoy the full loop. Reg still owns this Mustang but keeps it garaged.

He also remembers the effort to bring more streetlights to the subdivision as a deterrent to the limited amount of crime experienced by Farm families. There was much debate about increased lighting among residents because several homeowners did not want more streetlights. The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association put the matter to a vote and the proposal for more light won. These streetlights were installed in the late 1960s or early 1970s, Reg recollected.

Reg says he is a “fortunate man” to have lived in Ravensworth Farm and raised his children in an environment of “so much positivity.” At one point, with five children in the home, Kathy and Reg discussed moving to a larger home but she never wanted to leave the neighborhood. Reg jokes that just about the time that he and his wife resolved not to move out of the house for more space, they suddenly seemed to become empty-nesters with all the kids grown and attending college or beginning their careers.

Kathy passed away in 2015. Today, Reg has 13 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren with two more great-grandchildren on the way. He retired at age 88 and misses working.

“I hated to give up the practice of medicine,” said Reg, who still attends educational meetings to stay abreast of medical developments.

Unbelievably, he is in the process of putting his home on the market for sale in 2021, even though he could officially log 60 years in the house when Labor Day 2021 comes around.

*Con't Pg. 19*

*Con't from Pg. 18*

“Those of us who lived in Ravensworth Farm in its early days and raised our children here were very fortunate to be here at the time we were here. There were so many terrific people who were talented, considerate and kind,” Reg said.

“There still are great people and families with lots of lively activity,” he added. “Ravensworth continues to be a wonderful place as is our cul-de-sac here on Juxon Place. I love the continuity of seeing some of the same businesses and professionals in real estate, car repair, electrical work, and so on providing service to the neighborhood for decades when I notice their ads in the Farmer. The beats goes on—just like the song says!”

But those first years were incredibly special for Reg and his family. “It was like Mayberry,” he said. Indeed, it was.

## **TWO TIMES LUCKY ON QUEENSBERRY AVENUE: THIS ORIGINAL OWNER HAS LIVED IN MORE THAN ONE RAVENSWORTH HOME**

*by Robert Blizard*

An original owner of Ravensworth Farm who has lived in two Queensberry Avenue houses in the neighborhood since 1962, Rosemary Downey hails from the northern part of The Bronx, a suburban area near Westchester County. She kindly agreed to an interview in December 2020 to tell her story.

Her journey to her current home began almost 65 years ago when she got a job at the world-famous New York Public Library. Yes, that library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd St. with the two lion statues out front!

Rosemary was a library page who retrieved reference books when they were requested at the front desk. Library guests would find the shelf number for the book they wanted in the library’s Dewey Decimal System card catalog file and then bring that information to the desk. Clerks staffing the desk would then send the request to one of seven floors within the library via pneumatic tubes—like at a bank’s drive-up teller window—to pages on one of the building’s seven levels. A page would then locate the requested book and send it to the front desk through a dumb-waiter system. Rosemary said the system was remarkably efficient and that pages were typically college students, meaning that those seven stories were a fun and social environment.

In this library position, Rosemary met and married her husband while she was attending Fordham University. They later relocated to Rome, New York. In 1959, the couple moved to the Washington area and rented an apartment in Falls Church. One day in 1962, Rosemary visited a friend who’d moved to Ravensworth Farm. The friend lived in a Virginian model (three bedrooms, one full bathroom and no basement) and Rosemary found the community “lovely with nice curb appeal and a great location.” Suddenly, she found herself wanting to move to Ravensworth. “I fell in love with the area,” she said.

Not long after that, the couple purchased a Virginian on Queensberry Avenue at the northwest corner of the intersection with Ellet Road. (A much larger house sits in this location today.) Later, she was disappointed when it turned out that Queensberry served as the subdivision’s main thoroughfare. At the time of the sale, most of the neighborhood was under construction and Queensberry stopped at Flag Run. There was no indication it would go through to North Springfield and result in so much traffic.

Because Queensberry was so busy, it did not offer children the opportunity to play in the street, as was the custom almost everywhere else in Ravensworth. In the immediate area, kids usually played on Ellet and because parents were very concerned about their safety, “the children knew,” Rosemary said, “that they could not put a foot over the curb on Queensberry.”

By the late 1960s, Rosemary had four children—Mark, Matthew, Frances and Marguerite—and as the family expanded, the couple thought about a bigger house and started looking around. Ironically, at that moment, a house became available on the opposite side of the street when a military family moved out after the husband was reassigned. So, in 1967, the Downeys moved directly across Queensberry.

*Con't Pg. 22*



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### Questions?

Contact Jennifer Auble at

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

*Con't from Pg. 19*

This time, the family settled in a rambler with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a basement. The house came mostly as all such houses were initially sold in the neighborhood—with an unfinished basement and no central air-conditioning. But there was a fenced-in yard, which enabled the acquisition of a pet dog for which the children had been pleading.

Rosemary said that with more living space, a second level, and an enclosed yard, “I thought I’d gone to Heaven. I thought I could never want more from life than this.”

Gradually, however, the family began to make improvements to the home and upgrade it.

These days, Rosemary is glad that her street is the community’s main drag because it is easy for visitors to locate and the county plows the road first when it snows. But she does wistfully recall the ubiquitous presence of children on the Farm.

“That is what I miss most. There were large families and always lots of children playing. It was such an easy place for children to grow up and make friends,” she explained. “Now, you almost never see children and no one is playing outside.”

In her interview, Rosemary referred to the northeast corner of the Queensberry-Ellet intersection as “the Armstrong corner” because that first residence on Ellet—adjacent to her own current lot—was home to the Armstrong family with seven children. (Other residents from the community’s early years are likely to know exactly to which corner you are referring if you were to ask them to identify “the Armstrong corner.”) That house and that corner were a hub of activity.

Rosemary said that part of the community’s glue in its first decades was the close relationship of the wives and mothers in Ravensworth, who mostly didn’t work outside the home and had time to develop strong friendships, including bridge clubs. The women would sometimes play cards in the evening when the husbands could watch the children. They also would take turns babysitting for each other so that everyone could get a little time away from their children to shop, run errands or just have a day out and a day off.

In the neighborhood’s early days, the lake and the pool were popular destinations not only for the children in Ravensworth, but also for entire families, according to Rosemary. Her children liked to fish and play ice hockey at the lake, but she noted that “the lake doesn’t seem to freeze anymore.”

Joining the pool initially required spending time on a waiting list. The Downey family waited for two years before they could join. She noted that later, as that first generation of children grew up and moved on, the pool seemed not to be able to sell enough memberships to sustain itself.

Halloween was extremely popular in Ravensworth’s first couple of decades because there were so many children on the Farm. Rosemary noted that Halloween has never been so busy as it was in that era. Also back then, snowstorms brought out community residents to interact with each other as the children would sled down Ellet Road, play together and help shovel snow. Now, she pointed out, neighbors don’t know each other as well, both parents usually are working, and children are more likely to spend time in indoors, especially since there may be far fewer potential playmates on their block.

Rosemary remembers when the Beltway first opened in the mid-1960s and how few cars were on the road. “You could look in front of you and look behind you and not see another car,” she said. “Of course, that’s all changed.” She calls the difference in Braddock Road during the last 60 years “unbelievable.”

One hardship that Rosemary experienced after relocating to Northern Virginia was the dearth of shopping places. Born and raised in New York City, she was “used to all kinds of stores and shopping.” “It was difficult for me not to have what I wanted at my fingertips,” she said. “Living here was an adjustment.”

Rosemary’s children went to Ravensworth Elementary, Poe Intermediate and Annandale High. She fondly recalls Ronald Carpenter, the first principal at Ravensworth Elementary. “Everyone admired him, even the kids” she said of Carpenter. “He was memorable.”

*Con't Pg. 23*

*Con't from Pg. 22*

As her children grew up, Rosemary began to work outside the home. First as a nursery school teacher at Springfield Academy on Backlick Road and then undertaking administrative work—such as accounting, insurance processing, and office management. Later, she made a significant career change.

“All my adult life—I don’t know why—I always interested in real estate,” Rosemary revealed. To determine if she really should try being a realtor, she had lunch one day with a friend who was already working in that capacity. She found out that you have to give 100% to be successful in real estate, so she waited a few years till 1990 to start her third career. Rosemary worked in this role for 25 years until 2015, when she retired. Now, she has more time to visit her two granddaughters in Costa Rica, her granddaughter in Alexandria, take a cross-country train trip, prepare for two upcoming weddings, and enjoy her “Lunch Bunch” get-togethers.

While Rosemary did work with some original owners, their children and others to buy and sell homes in Ravensworth, she spread her wings to Front Royal, Winchester, Old Town Alexandria, and Arlington. She is aware of many people who grew up in Ravensworth choosing to buy homes here in their adulthood.

“One thing that hasn’t changed,” Rosemary stated, “is that the community is still so well cared for. I drive around and it still can look the same as it did years ago. It is very inviting.”

Rosemary is also a big fan of the Farmer newsletter, explaining that she reads it cover to cover when it arrives because it so informative. She called the publication “absolutely wonderful” and appreciates “all the people who put it together and keep it going.”

These days, Rosemary is quite glad that she remains in her Ravensworth home because “it is a great place to mature” with few steps, most needs on one level, and lots of sunlight from her add-on sun room to enjoy nature and the changing seasons. “I wouldn’t trade my house for anything in the world,” she said.

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**RECIPE SWAP***by John Ritchie*

John Ritchie, Ravensworth Farm Civic Association Treasurer, shares this recipe. "My mother always had recipes for those who didn't want to do much work in the kitchen but still wanted to make it look impressive. The edge pieces won't look as pretty but they still taste as good. My sister and I got the edges while the rest were plated on a crystal platter for parties."

Come on, everyone, step up and share! Recipes other than baked goods are also welcome. Send your recipes to [rfcalfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcalfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org).

# Recipe

*Recipe:* Tiger Butter

**Ingredients:**

16 oz. White  
Chocolate Chips  
1/2 Cup Chunky  
Peanut Butter  
1 cup semi-  
sweet chocolate  
chips

**Directions:**

Line a cookie sheet (one with sides) with a piece of wax/  
parchment paper.  
Place white chocolate in a bowl and microwave on high for 1-2  
minutes until melted.  
Stir until smooth and then add peanut butter and microwave  
again until melted.  
Stir until smooth. Spread on the lined cookie sheet.  
Melt the chocolate chips separately (1-2 minutes on high) and  
stir until smooth.  
Pour this over the white chocolate mixture and swirl through  
with a knife. (Use your artistic side to give it "tiger"  
stripes.)  
Refrigerate for ~20 minutes until it is partially set. Score  
through with a knife.  
Chill until hard and then break into pieces. Store in the  
fridge.



## **WHY JOIN THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION?**

Your \$15 membership (what a bargain!) helps cover the cost of writing, printing, and delivering this newsletter to all 858 homes in Ravensworth Farm eight times per year.

It also covers the cost of updating and printing the Ravensworth Farm Community Directory each year. The Directory is only available to members. In addition to providing the names, addresses and phone numbers for your neighbors (so you'll know where to go to pick up those items being offered on the Ravensworth Farm Facebook page), the Directory also provides you with emergency numbers (for when your internet is dead), and useful non-emergency numbers. It contains the history of Ravensworth Farm and the Covenants and Restrictions associated with the neighborhood. It even contains contact information for youth looking to work! If you need a teen to babysit, pet sit, shovel, rake, or wash your car, just \$15 gets you a copy of this coveted list.

In addition to The Ravensworth Farmer and the Ravensworth Farm Directory, the Civic Association also funds:

- three informative general meetings per year,
- community-wide Fall Festival,
- holiday decoration judging,
- summer picnic/BBQ/bash,
- maintenance of the plants and signs at the three community entrances,
- donations to the Scouts and the school,
- coordination and advertising of the fall and spring community-wide yard sales,
- community large-trash-items clean-up day every spring, and
- many other activities and community-care needs.

If you aren't a member, join now via [RavensworthFarm.org](http://RavensworthFarm.org), contact Elissa Myers to become a member - 703-321-7590 or [elissa@elissamyers.com](mailto:elissa@elissamyers.com)-, or answer the door when your Block Captain comes knocking. It would be great to welcome every one of our 858 households into the Civic Association!

## **"GEM" REVIEWS**

The Ravensworth Farm Community Association board wants to encourage neighbors to share great ideas with neighbors. Whether it's an eatery, theater, tool, park, repair place, preschool, or builder, if you've found a "gem"... please share. Send reviews to [rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org). Thanks for sharing!

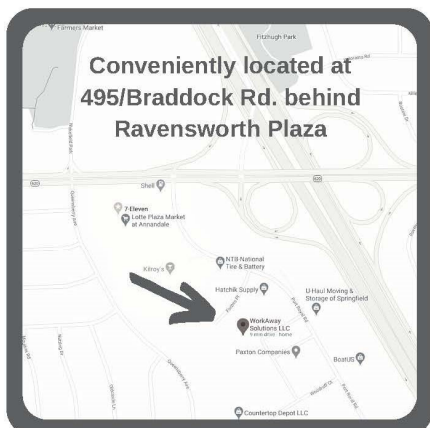
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