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

June 2021

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

Issue 7

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Farmers!

I'm pleased to announce Shobha McConnell is the new editor for the Ravensworth Farmer! The Board of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association (RFCA) wants to extend a sincere thank you to Sara Ortiz, who has served as Editor of the Farmer for 10 years. Sara, it has been a pleasure to work with you.

The next RFCA General Membership Meeting is Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 7:30 PM. We have invited Vivian Watts, our delegate to the VA General Assembly, as our guest speaker. She will be giving an update on new legislation passed in the recent session. She will also be providing a detailed explanation of Virginia's education funding structure and how it affects Fairfax County, as a follow up to the discussion we had with Megan McLaughlin (Fairfax County School Board - Braddock District) at the March RFCA General Membership Meeting. Please join us with some questions!

We will also be holding elections for the board positions at the May 27th meeting. The meeting will be on Zoom with login details in this newsletter and posted on Facebook and the RFCA website. I hope to see you there!

Con't Pg. 3



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

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

Current RFCA Open Positions

**Recording Secretary
Advertising for the Farmer
Advertising for the Directory**

**Please contact Marcie Winit
for additional information
or to volunteer.**



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 1733, 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
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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
May	5	22	May 27 – General Membership Meeting

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

The RFCA continues our search for the following positions:

- Recording Secretary - Currently held by Ginger Rogers for 10 years; the person in this position will take notes during board and general membership meetings.
- Advertising for the Farmer - OPEN
- Advertising for the Directory - OPEN

In other news, it's been awesome to see kids returning to school in person, and many adults have been able to get vaccinated against COVID-19. Every Virginian over the age of 16 is now eligible for a free vaccination – please get one if you haven't already!

Stay safe & healthy,

Marcie Winitt

MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Topic: RFCA General Membership Meeting - May 2021

Time: May 27, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89682372648?pwd=UCtaN29ZNFN0NVRua1VyMG04WUpldz09>

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

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Passcode: 131478

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RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY NEWS - PLANNING FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

by Erika Aspuria, Principal

In accordance with the governor's order, we are actively planning for a 5-day a week school year for all Ravensworth Ravens for the fall. Do you have new neighbors, know of any rising kindergarten children, or know of families wanting to return to FCPS who live in our boundaries? If so, please encourage the parents to register now. Our student enrollment determines the number of teaching positions we have at Ravensworth which directly affects our class sizes for next year. Go to the Ravensworth website to begin the process:

<https://ravensworthes.fcps.edu/student-services/student-registration>

BOY SCOUT TROOP 991 HEADING TO SUMMER CAMP

Ravensworth's Boy Scout Troop 991 will be heading to the beautiful Allegheny Mountains at Goshen Scout Reservation (Camp Olmsted) in late June for a great week of summer camp! Even with plenty of COVID protocols the scouts are looking forward to a great week of camping, merit badge work, and tons of fun swimming and boating in Lake Merriweather, shooting, archery and much more.



Interested in joining our Boy Scout troop? Contact Scoutmaster Mr. Bill Thewes at William.thewes@gmail.com.



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BENCH IN MEMORY OF RICHARD ("DICK") SARGENT

by Mary Keeser, President (Friends of Lake Accotink Park - FLAP)

Braddock Supervisor Sharon Bulova led the dedication of the McLaren-Sargent Pavilion partly in his honor. At that time, Supervisor Bulova noted Dick had not only volunteered within the Ravensworth Farm Community for over twenty-one years (at the time of the dedication – thirty years overall), but he had also worked tirelessly with the scouts and spearheaded Lake Accotink clean-up campaigns. He served on the Braddock District Park Advisory Committee, and was the RFCA Parks and Recreation Standing Committee Chair. The Sargent's indelible dedication to our Community was also a key factor in this honor.

There is no question the Sargents emulated the C – Community and Civic. They will be missed but never forgotten as their work to make our community a safe, clean and beautiful environment in which to raise our families is evident every day.

FLAP is fundraising to purchase a memorial bench from the Fairfax County Park Foundation. The bench will be placed at the marina or on the trail and will display a plaque for Dick and Martha Sargent. Please send your suggestions for the location of the bench and the plaque wording to contact@flapaccotink.org. You can donate online at www.flapaccotink.org.

"Protect, restore, preserve and educate all concerning the natural, historical and cultural resources of Lake Accotink Park"

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THE NEW MARGARET KINDER EDUCATION AND POLLINATOR GARDEN AT LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

Sources: FCPA E-News and Information (April 22, 2021) and Friends of Lake Accotink Park News

Members of the community and local leaders gathered at Lake Accotink Park on April 17, 2021, to celebrate the official opening and ribbon-cutting of the Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden. The ribbon was cut on the new garden following remarks by members of the Board of Supervisors and Friends of Lake Accotink Park. Margaret's plaque was previously installed to recognize her decades of service as an educator, naturalist, gardener and volunteer at Lake Accotink Park and the Ravensworth Farm community. A new interpretive sign highlighting Margaret's contributions to the park was also unveiled.

Margaret was born in Sumter, SC and grew up on a farm in nearby Horatio. She learned to love gardening, and raising guineas, goats and chickens. She earned a B.A. degree in elementary education at Lander College in Greenwood SC, and later an M.A. degree in education at the University of New Orleans. She taught grades 1-3 all over the country in SC, WA and LA. In time she earned a Certificate in Guidance and Counseling from George Mason University. She was a Guidance Counselor at Ravensworth Elementary School for twenty years, until she retired. Margaret and her husband Tom lived in Kings Park, but she wanted to be close to the lake. When Ann Meekins informed her about a house in Ravensworth Farm that bordered the lake she jumped at it. Rumor has it she marched into the home and announced, "We're buying it." True or not, Tom was smart enough to agree. As a member of the Ravensworth Garden Club she tended the pollinator garden at Lake Accotink Park for years. The semi-annual clean-up would find her in the traffic circle weeding and hoeing, and recruiting others to assist. This relocation and expansion of the garden found Margaret not only digging holes for the new plants, but teaching old and young alike how to do it. She has cultivated young minds and plants so they can grow and prosper. The Friends of Lake Accotink Park take great pride in dedicating the Margaret Kinder Educational and Pollinator Garden and thank all who made the vision of a pollinator garden a reality.



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RECIPE SWAP - SPRING VEGETABLE PASTA

By America's Test Kitchen

RFCA President Marcie Winitt loves this recipe (without the asparagus)!

Serves 4 to 6

For tips on trimming asparagus, see related tip. Campanelle is the pasta of choice in this dish, but farfalle and penne are acceptable substitutes.

Ingredients:

3 medium leeks, white and light green parts halved lengthwise, washed, and cut into 1/2-inch-thick slices (about 5 cups)
3 cups roughly chopped dark green parts reserved
1 pound asparagus, tough ends snapped off, chopped coarsely, and reserved; spears cut on bias into 1/2-inch-thick pieces
2 cups frozen baby peas, thawed
4 medium garlic cloves, minced or pressed through garlic press (about 4 teaspoons)
4 cups vegetable broth
1 cup water
2 tablespoons minced fresh mint leaves
2 tablespoons minced fresh chives
1/2 teaspoon finely grated zest plus 2 tablespoons juice from 1 lemon
6 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
Table salt
1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
1 pound campanelle
1 cup dry white wine
1 ounce grated Parmesan cheese (about 1/2 cup), plus extra for serving
Ground black pepper

Directions:

1. Place dark green leek trimmings, asparagus trimmings, 1 cup peas, 2 teaspoons garlic, vegetable broth, and water in a large saucepan. Bring to a simmer over high heat, then lower heat to medium-low and gently simmer for 10 minutes. While broth simmers, combine mint, chives, and lemon zest in a small bowl and set aside.
2. Strain broth through a fine-mesh strainer into an 8-cup measuring cup, pressing on solids to extract as much liquid as possible (you should have 5 cups broth; add water as needed to measure 5 cups). Discard solids and return broth to the saucepan. Cover and keep warm over low heat.
3. Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a Dutch oven over medium heat until simmering. Add sliced leeks and pinch salt; cook, covered, stirring occasionally, until leeks begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Add asparagus pieces and cook until crisp-tender, 4 to 6 minutes. Add remaining 2 teaspoons garlic and pepper flakes; cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add remaining cup peas and continue to cook for 1 minute. Transfer vegetables to a plate and set aside. Wipe out the pot.
4. Heat remaining 4 tablespoons of oil in a now empty Dutch oven over medium heat until shimmering. Add pasta and cook, stirring frequently, until just beginning to brown, about 5 minutes. Add wine and cook, stirring constantly, until absorbed, about 2 minutes.
5. When wine is fully absorbed, add hot broth. Increase heat to medium-high and bring to boil. Cook, stirring frequently, until most of the liquid is absorbed and pasta is al dente, 8 to 10 minutes.
6. Remove pot from heat, stir in lemon juice, Parmesan, half of herb mixture, and vegetables. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve immediately, passing Parmesan cheese and remaining herb mixture separately.

Con't Pg. 8

Con't from Pg. 7

Cooking the pasta:

For better flavor, cook the pasta like risotto. To deepen the overall flavor of the spring vegetable pasta and add body to the sauce, cook the pasta like rice.

1. Toast the pasta - Sautéing the raw pasta in oil, as you would raw rice for risotto, gives it a golden brown color and nutty, rich flavor.
2. Add wine - A cup of white wine introduced to the pot gets absorbed by the pasta, further contributing to the dish's flavor.
3. Add broth - Instead of using water, boil the pasta in vegetable broth (simmered first with vegetable peelings to concentrate its flavor).
4. Cook until creamy - As the pasta cooks, it gets coated in the creamy, starch-thickened broth. No need to add any actual cream.

Feel free to share your favorites with your neighboring Farmers. Or convince your neighbor to share that recipe you've always wanted.

EARLY VOTING

Source: The Walkinshaw Advisory, April 22, 2021

Early voting began April 23rd for the June 8 Democratic primary in Virginia. On Saturday, April 24, these three locations opened for early voting from 9:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.:

- North County Governmental Center (Reston)
- Fairfax County Government Center
- Mount Vernon Governmental Center

These three early voting sites will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The only other Saturdays these three locations will be open are May 29 and June 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On June 1, more hours and locations will be offered.

An additional 13 early voting locations will be offered beginning May 29. Voting hours at these locations will be Monday through Friday from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday hours will only be offered at these locations on May 29 and June 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Any registered Fairfax County voter can vote early, and can cast their ballot at any early voting site.

For a complete list of dates, times, and voting locations visit the Office of Elections' website here:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting-june-primaries>

"GEM" REVIEWS

RF neighbor, Jen Gildee, recommends the excellent Korean Bibimbop (bulgogi steak, vegetables and rice) and amazing dumplings at Loopy's Eatery in Bradlick Shopping Center! <https://www.loopyseatery.com/>

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 rfcafarmerr@ravensworthfarm.org. Thanks for sharing!

15 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT CICADAS: FAIRFAX COUNTY, 2021

1. They are harmless.
2. They are loud. We're talking sports arena loud.
3. They will appear when soil temperatures reach 64-65 degrees – probably mid-May.
4. They'll be around for about four to six weeks.
5. They will be almost everywhere in Fairfax County. Some limited areas will see few of them.
6. They are edible. There are recipes online.
7. They are clumsy flyers and don't social distance. They bump into things – and into people.
8. Pets love them. Rover can eat a few, but not too many or he'll get an upset stomach.
9. They don't swarm. They fly about individually.
10. They don't bite.
11. They don't sting.
12. They will molt and leave shells all over the place.
13. These are not locusts. They won't eat your garden flowers and vegetables.
14. The tips of some tree limbs will die later in the summer.
15. Do not use pesticides against them. You're wasting your time and money and harming the environment.

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Ravensworth Resident

THE DOS AND DON'TS OF YARD WASTE

By Tami Sheiffer, tamara.sheiffer@fairfaxcounty.gov

Watch the Green Grow Coordinator for the Fairfax County Park Authority

Farmer Editor's Note: After the last edition of The Ravensworth Farmer went to press, Republic/AAA announced they will also no longer accept plastic bags for yard waste. American Disposal and Fairfax County had previously made this announcement. You may use labeled bins or paper bags to dispose of yard waste.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recently amended the county's Solid Waste Management ordinance to prohibit the use of plastic bags for yard waste collection. Instead of plastic bags, residents should use reusable bins or paper yard waste bags to set out yard waste for curbside collection or manage yard waste on-site with grasscycling or backyard composting.

Why did the county prohibit the use of plastic bags for yard waste collection? The county recycles yard waste and turns it into compost. When plastic bags are used for yard waste, plastic ends up being shredded with the compost. Banning plastic bags keeps plastic out of the environment.

Because yard waste is recycled into compost, you should also keep pet waste, rocks, diseased plants and invasive plants out of your yard waste. Invasive plants are nonnative plants that spread out of control in the wild and are difficult to remove. Plants like English ivy, that can cover and eventually kill trees, or Japanese stiltgrass that can take over lawns and forest floors, are examples of invasive plants. Keep invasive plants from spreading in the environment by keeping them out of your curbside yard waste collection. Unlike yard waste, invasive plants should be disposed of in plastic bags with your regular trash to keep it from being recycled and spreading in the environment.

You can reduce your yard waste, and save time, by grasscycling. Grasscycling means letting grass clippings lie on the lawn. Grass clippings decompose and return nutrients to the soil, reducing the need for fertilizer.

Backyard composting is another way to use yard waste to return nutrients to your garden. However, dumping yard waste into forests is not the same as composting. Dumped yard waste breaks down much slower than plant material in a compost tumbler or hot compost pile. Dumped yard waste smothers native plants and can spread invasive plants in natural areas.

Here are the dos and don'ts of yard waste:

DO:

- Put yard waste in reusable bins or paper yard waste bins for collection
- Bundle sticks and branches (no more than 4 feet long)
- Grasscycle and compost

DON'T:

- Use plastic bags for yard waste collection
- Dump yard waste in forests
- Put pet waste, rocks, diseased or invasive plants in yard waste

Thank you for helping to protect our environment. Visit the Watch the Green Grow webpage to learn more about green yard care practices and to record your green actions on the map: bit.ly/WTGG

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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.

NEW NEIGHBORS

New folks move in all the time. If you have new neighbors, tell Cindy Cho. If you are a new neighbor- welcome! Please let Cindy know you have arrived so that one of her New Neighbor Committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Cindy Cho (choc64@gmail.com)

RAVENSWORTH FARM ON FACEBOOK

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



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

DECORATED CAKES	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.
DONATIONS ACCEPTED	Good condition used clothes, baby gear (not cribs), and small, useful kitchen items for Immanuel's Hope and good condition clothes, winter outerwear, new socks, and small toiletries for Central Union Mission in DC. Drop off at Immanuel Bible Church lobby (Braddock Rd entrance #1) or the Ortiz home in Ravensworth Farm. Ortiz Family – 571-331-9138
WANTED	Good used furniture for needy low income families in the Annandale Area. Needed are beds (no kings), dressers, kitchen tables & 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 billsinclair2@verizon.net or Mary Lee Dispirito at ddmld@verizon.net .

SEE YOU AT RAVENSWORTH POOL!

We are looking forward to having a fun and safe pool season this summer. This is a great time to join the pool. Join at: www.ravensworthfarmpool.com

While we expect to follow Phase III VA guidance for pools, this is what that likely means for our pool:

- **Pool:** The pool will be available for open swim during normal operating hours. As always, we have one lap lane available for members to exercise at all times.
- **Hours:** This year, most importantly, we will offer more normal hours of operation. Estimated hours are: Saturday and Sunday 12pm-8pm, Monday-Friday 11am-8pm.
- **No Time Limit Restrictions:** We do not plan to have a reservation system. Pools are limited to 75% capacity, and we rarely reach those levels on a normal day. We will monitor capacity to ensure we don't exceed our limits.
- **Check-In:** Masks will be worn at check-in/check out and in the bathrooms. Masks can be removed at your seat and in the water. We will be using the same member check in system with a photo displayed. Members must have a photo on their profile. Members will likely have to fill out a COVID-related form prior to coming to the pool.
- **Parties:** Semi-Private and Private Parties can be reserved at the pool. However, all parties will only occur during times when the pool is closed to our general membership. We want to allow members the opportunity to reserve a private party, while still helping to minimize crowding during normal operating hours.
- **Baby Pool:** The baby pool will be operational.
- **Seating:** Deck chairs will be available for member use and will be clustered in groups and spaced around the deck.
- **Pool Features:** The playground, concessions, grills, and concessions will be available for use this year.
- **Swim Programs and Fun:** Our Fledglings, Ravens Camp, and Swim and Dive Teams are all happening this summer!

We appreciate your support and would love to see you back at the pool. Contact Jennifer Auble at membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com with any questions.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Auble
Ravensworth Farm Pool Membership Director

VOLUNTEER FOR LAKE ACCOTINK

Volunteers gather at the Lake Accotink Marina the second Sunday of every month at 9:00am to clean up, weed, and otherwise care for Lake Accotink Park. Masks are mandatory. Community services hours are provided for middle school and high school students. It is wise to wear long sleeves, gloves, boots, and long pants. More information at www.flapaccotink.org.





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DISCOVERING OUR NATION'S FIRST MONUMENT

By Roberto Bernate (RF Neighbor)

Have you ever been traveling along King Street in Old Town, or, perhaps along Eastern Avenue, or, possibly at Benjamin Banneker Park, near the new playground, and saw an incongruous-caged stone? You may have perhaps thought these are sequestered graves of historic prominence or perhaps a buried communications line requiring extra protection. The magnitude of these stones' significance is belied by their humble presence and relatively insignificant appearance.

If you have seen such an anomaly, then you would be looking at the oldest monuments in the United States. These curiosities are the Original Federal Boundary Stones of the District of Columbia, delineating the border of the nascent federal territory of the United States, dating to one of the first Congressional mandates in 1790.

Much time, discussion and compromise were expended in deciding on the location of the United States capital. Various locations were debated; ultimately, it was left as a compromise between the northern and southern states on a place roughly centered between Maine and Georgia. The final location's placement was left to George Washington – he wanted a location that had to include Alexandria (Old Town), Georgetown, and the Eastern Branch (now the Anacostia River). Alexandria and Georgetown were two prominent ports of the day on the Potomac River. Washington further saw the Potomac River as a passage into the western portions of North America, thereby giving the location a strategic advantage.

Historical mythology has blurred Washington's intentions as self-serving owing to the falsity that he owned a large portion of the newborn territory. Washington believed exactly the opposite. He did own substantial individual properties within Alexandria and Washington Counties but no major tracts of land outside of the Federal City limits nor within the land bordering the Federal Territory. Most of his properties were situated along the Ohio River Valley. In total, George Washington owned in excess of 50,000 acres of land, making him the wealthiest United States president ever (by adjusted dollar amounts).

The sandstone monuments are located throughout the District of Columbia-Virginia-Maryland area and are free to visit. The Boundary stones are the oldest monuments where you can visit, touch, and explore the very embryo of our nation.

Forty such markers encompass a nearly one hundred miles-square diamond or rhombic configuration surrounding Washington, DC beginning at Jones Point, Virginia, south of Old Town and proceeding every mile stretching northwest to Falls Church, then northeast to Silver Spring, Maryland then southeast towards Seat Pleasant, and finally southwest towards Oxon Hill.

Of the forty boundary stones laid, fourteen stones are located in the ceded portion of Virginia immediately south of the Potomac River and were placed in 1791. In 1846/7, Washington, DC retroceded Virginia's land and gave what is now Arlington County and some of Alexandria City. Twenty-six boundary stones lay in the border area ceded by Maryland and were placed in 1792. Most lay along the border Avenues created by the new territory bordering Maryland and the District: Western, Eastern, and Southern Avenues. These border lines are adjacent to Montgomery and Prince George's Counties on the Maryland side. The original extents of the Federal Territory had but two counties – Alexandria and Washington.

This first stone was laid at a grandiose Masonic ceremony on April 15, 1791 at Jones Point (South Cornerstone), where George Washington was in attendance with select subordinates: Major Andrew Ellicott (of Ellicott City fame), Benjamin Banneker, the District survey commissioners, as well as the mayor of Alexandria. Other notable characters in this story include Thomas Jefferson (Secretary of State), Colonel Peter (Pierre), Charles L'Enfant (Designer of the Federal City), relatives of Ellicott, and an innumerable number of laborers – some involved by choice, but many more – not.



Figure 1: Southwest 1, 1220 Wilkes Street. Author, 2018.



Figure 2: Library of Congress, Fred E. Woodward, circa 1906.

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The stones were quarried from the finest sandstone (then called freestone) after the fledgling government purchased the Aquia Quarry in Stafford County (now called Government Island) in 1791 by Peter L'Enfant. Sandstone was a popular decorative stone and was used in many buildings within the new capital such as the White House, Capitol, Executive, and the Treasury; as well as local structures such as Gunston Hall and the Old Fairfax County Courthouse.

The forty stones were identical in their configuration: The cornerstones at the cardinal points were inscribed with "Jurisdiction of the United States" on the oblique corner facing the Federal Territory and the ceded state name facing the opposite side. The intermediate (mile) stones were inscribed with "Jurisdiction of the United States" on the facet towards the Federal Territory and the opposite facet inscribed with the ceded state. The third facet was inscribed with the year it was placed (1791 for Virginia and 1792 for Maryland), and the fourth facet inscribed with any appropriate positional deviation. It was George Washington's ardent directive to place the boundary stones at exact one-mile intervals wherever possible unless waterways or land obstructions impeded their placement. If the exact placement was not possible, a magnetic deviation and distance in poles to the nearest mile-points were inscribed.



Figure 3: Northeast 5, 4609 Eastern Avenue Northeast. Author, 2019.



Figure 4: Southwest 4, Fairlington Mews Condominiums/King & South Wakefield Streets. Author, 2015.

Starting in 1915, after a years-long debate as to who would be the stones' caretaker, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took on the responsibility and began installing wrought-iron protective enclosures on each of their respective local DAR chapters today. Most enclosures are extant and bear a small plaque commemorating the year placed and the DAR chapter responsible for its care.

These precious articles of our nation's earliest-most fragile times can be visited in parking lots, residential yards, public parks, a cemetery, an auto impound lot, and even a storefront. However, all have always been at risk to external forces, both natural and manmade. Most casual passersby may only see the enclosures observed used as bike racks, trash disposals, and even lean-tos for the homeless.



Figure 5: Northeast 5, Kings Crossing Condominiums/Southern Avenue Southeast & Naylor Road. Author, 2021.



Figure 6: Southeast 8, Blue Plains Auto Impound Lot/Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm. Author, 2018.

Boundary stones are chiseled from sandstone, a hearty yet fragile stone subject to weathering. These stones are also at risk because of their very exposed locations, subjecting them to the perils brought on by technology and unfortunate location. Some have been inadvertently buried, some toppled, and some run over by vehicles repeatedly.

All forty of these stones' locations can be visited, most with little difficulty. There are, however, three stones that imbue a particularly problematic trip for visitors. These are the Northeast 8 (Eastern & Kenilworth Avenues Northeast), Southeast 8 (Blue Plains Auto Impound Lot/Oxon Cove Park & Oxon Hill Farm), and Southeast 9 (Fox Ferry Point) Boundary Stones. These three stones can prove to be an especially difficult visit due to their inaccessibility and remote locations.

Thirty-six stones remain extant: two have been replaced with replicas, one with a plaque, and the fourth a replacement stone. Almost all have been moved from their original placement due to modernization, carelessness, or ignorance of significance. It is important to note that all similarities aside, each of these forty stones has its own story to tell of the 1/40th chapter of the Boundary Stones of the District of Columbia. Whatever their current state, it is still awe-inspiring to visit these forty locations to get a glimpse of the genuine, tangible, and precarious history upon which this nation was founded.

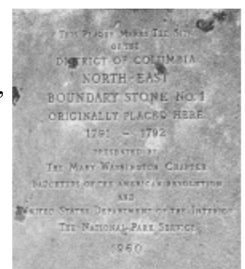


Figure 7: Northeast 1, Tiramisu Café & Bakery, 7847 Eastern Avenue. Author, 2019.

Access the Boundary Stone listing here:
<https://www.hmdb.org/results.asp?Search=Series&SeriesID=295>

At the link, in the upper right and left are options to either download a .kml file or to portray the location on Google Maps.



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Questions?

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PARK BOARD APPROVES GRANTS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE AND INFO KIOSKS

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Board approved Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant requests from Annandale North Springfield Little League and Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) to improve park ball fields and build park information kiosks. Action on the grant request came at the FCPA Board meeting on April 14, 2021.

Board members approved Annandale North Springfield Little League's request for \$11,016 to repair the batting cages, replace the backstop, and install new bullpens at field 2 of Pine Ridge Park. The project is designed to improve safety for families who are involved in baseball practice and games as either participants or spectators, as well as for general park users.

The Park Board also approved MORE's request for \$1,491.97 in matching grant funds to construct three informational kiosks at Wakefield Park, similar to ones recently installed along the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail within Laurel Hill Park. The kiosks will provide a place to post trail maps, trail etiquette and usage guidelines, as well as programming notices for park users. Kiosks will be installed at key junctions in the trail system at Wakefield Park to help educate trail users and all park visitors.

Since 2002, the Mastenbrook Grant Program has awarded approximately \$1.8 million in grants for nearly 200 projects valued at more than \$12.6 million. Grants ranging from a few hundred dollars to the maximum of \$20,000 have funded such projects as trail improvements, construction of gazebos and shelters, and athletic field improvements.

For more information, or to apply for a matching grant, visit the Mastenbrook Grant website, or call 703-324-8591. Application for a grant can also be found online.

WHEN IT'S TIME TO DOWNSIZE SUGGESTIONS FOR TRANSITIONING TO A NEW LIVING COMMUNITY

By Marilyn Campbell (The Springfield Connection, April 29 - May 5, 2021 Issue)

The decision to trade the comfort of home where you've lived for years and transition to retirement can evoke a range of emotions. From leaving behind a place that holds memories of having raised an active family to sorting feelings around a perceived loss of freedom can be overwhelming.

"One of the hardest things to do is embrace change," said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW. The older we get the harder it is to embrace change. It takes about three to six months to adjust to new changes and routines."

"That space between ending what was and becoming what will be can be a dark and scary place," added Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College.

Finding a retirement community where one feels comfortable can help make the transition easier. Virginia was ranked number one in the country for having the best resources for seniors by SeniorAdvice.com, an independent, non-profit organization that offers free information and guidance.

Touring a community before selecting one or deciding to move can allay fears of the sterile living conditions and sedentary lifestyles that are often associated with retirement communities, advises Barnaby. "Find activities to join in the care facility," said Barnaby. "Joining groups allows people to form connections."

One such community is Sunrise of Old Town, which is scheduled to open later this spring. "We have activities going all day long to keep our seniors active and moving so that they have a sense of purpose," said Maggie McElroy of Sunrise. "Residents can bring their furnishings to help make their suites feel more like home."

Creating a sense of the familiarity of one's old home can make the transition less jarring. "We can bring items like photos and decorations that help recreate the familiar home environment," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University.

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“Then think about good aspects of the move for our health and safety.”

“Take time to actively think about memories in your home and reminisce,” said psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy.D. “You can do this while packing up. Take photos of each room before you pack up and consider making a video where you walk through it and narrate events that happened in the room. It will be a nice keepsake to reflect on ... and a way to get closure and say goodbye to your home.”

SPOTTED LANTERNFLY IS A GROWING THREAT

*by Chad Rigsby, PhD
writing in Bartlett Tree Tips, Spring 2021*

The spotted lanternfly (SLF) is actually not a fly, but a planthopper, and it feeds on trees using its needle-like mouthpart, called a “stylet”. Tree of heaven is the preferred host tree for this invasive insect, but there are more than 100 known host species, including hickory, maple, pine, poplar, red oak, walnut, willow, apple, and Prunus spp. (which includes plums, cherries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, and almonds).

First discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014, the main populations have spread to Delaware and Virginia. SLF has, however, been detected in states beyond this immediate area, such as Connecticut, New York, and Massachusetts.

If egg masses are detected, they can be scraped off, double-bagged, and thrown away. Also, several systemic and contact products can be used to effectively manage SLF.

If you find SLF, please report it to your local Cooperative Extension Service office immediately to aid in the control of this invasive pest. To learn more, search USDA spotted lanternfly video on YouTube.

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OAK DECLINE

*by Andrew Loyd, PhD, Plant Pathologist
writing in Bartlett Tree Tips, Spring 2021*

Over the last few decades, a general decline has been observed in oaks (genus *Quercus*) across the eastern United States. Symptoms consist of stunted growth, thinning canopy, progressive dieback, and a general lack of vigor. The cause of oak decline cannot be pinned to one primary agent but is the result of a combination of environmental and biotic stresses that result in a depletion of carbohydrates and storage sugars. This sets the stage for secondary problems or stresses that eventually can lead to mortality.

Oak decline does not happen quickly and it can take several years before the trees die from multiple secondary problems. The primary factors that have been shown to be involved in oak decline are climate change; drought; fire suppression; introduced, defoliating pests (e.g., European gypsy moths); disease (*Phytophthora* canker); and human-caused activities in the urban forest (e.g., soil compaction, construction damage, etc.). Secondary problems such as Hypoxylon canker, *Armillaria* root rot, bacterial leaf scorch, and wood-inhabiting ambrosia and bark beetles further exacerbate the negative progression of tree health, until the tree succumbs.

To manage oak decline, trees should be cared for proactively and kept healthy through soil care programs, pest and disease management programs, and routine pruning to reduce the likelihood of branch and tree failure. Consult your local Bartlett Arborist Representative to develop a management program to keep your oak tree healthy.

HAVING DIFFICULTY PREPARING MEALS?

The Meals on Wheels nutrition program provides home delivered nutrition services targeted to persons 60 years of age or older as well as younger individuals who may have a disability and are temporarily unable to prepare meals for themselves due to illness or accident. Weekly meals are available for in-home delivery. Priority is given to older individuals with the greatest economic and social need, with special emphasis on low-income minority individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and individuals at risk for institutional placement. The program is targeted to support eligible adults to remain independent in their own homes with support by this program. The meals program currently provides a weekly, contact-free meal delivery of 11 flash frozen meals. Meals are delivered one time per week. Apply by calling the Department of Family Services, 703-324-5409.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can be used like cash to buy food from authorized retailers and online from Amazon and Walmart but not delivery fees. Recipients receive an Electronic Benefit Transfer card. Your account is debited each time eligible food items are purchased. A secret Personal Identification Number is required.

Your household must meet certain requirements to be eligible for SNAP benefits. The application process can be done by computer or phone—no need to come in-person. Apply online at commonhelp.virginia.gov/access, or call 1-855-635-4370. For details, call the Department of Family Services Customer Care Line at 703-324-7500, TTY 711.

NEW CAMPING RULE: NO OUTSIDE FIREWOOD

A new park rule prohibits campers from bringing firewood into any Fairfax County Park Authority campground. The potential for spreading pests and/or disease that would damage our natural resources is too great. Fairfax County Park Authority can provide firewood.