



The Official Publication of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association (RFCA),
Incorporated- Springfield, Virginia



January 2024 The Ravensworth *Farmer* Issue 4

RFCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

All but **ONE** of the board members is stepping down at the end of this term (30 September, End of Fiscal Year 2024). We need a group of people to take over as stewards of the Ravensworth Civic Association if it is to continue in its current state. If not, we will have no choice but to pause operations at the end of this term and hold onto all materials for the time when there is a group of people able and willing to resurrect the Association.

Note from the Editor: *The aforementioned terms "operations" and materials" are Marcie's colloquial manner of enunciating that all actions, events, and publications will cease as there will be no treasurer to direct funds for the RFCA Newsletter, websites, directory, or email update payments. Also, there will be no Board direction to coordinate events, such as yard sales, contests, and community gatherings."*

If you do not receive RFCA email updates and would like to subscribe, go to <https://www.ravensworthfarm.org/> and click on "Subscribe," at the page bottom.

All-elected positions are available, except the Treasurer, they are:

- President
- 1st Vice President
- Recording Secretary
- 2nd Vice President
- Corresponding Secretary

Also, the appointed head of the Green Standing Committee is vacant.

The current term for elected board members ends at the end of this Fiscal Year (30 September 2024).

Contact ravensworth.farmer@gmail.com if interested.

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Important Links

Join the RFCA & receive the Ravensworth Farm Directory through this web link:

<https://www.ravensworthfarm.org/join>

Subscribe to the RFCA mailing list to receive important email blasts and the Farmer (scroll down to the bottom of the page for the form to subscribe):

<https://www.ravensworthfarm.org/>

Join the Ravensworth Farm Facebook page for community sharing and discussions and event updates:

<https://m.facebook.com/groups/134665557176/?ref=share&mibextid=q5o4bk>

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 Winitt	703-678-9074	Prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1 st Vice President	John Ritchie	703-321-8427	VP1@ravensworthfarm.org
2 nd Vice President	VACANT		VP2@ravensworthfarm.org
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151	RecSec@ravensworthfarm.org
Corresponding Secretary	VACANT		CorSec@ravensworthfarm.org
Treasurer	Kristoffer Hull	703-517-8471	Treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org

STANDING COMMITTEES

Schools & Education	Jill Mowbray	703-865-8368	Schools@ravensworthfarm.org
Green Committee	VACANT		Green@ravensworthfarm.org
Membership & Communication	Elissa Myers	703-626-9087	Membership@ravensworthfarm.org

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Signs	Margaret Kinder	703-764-9576	Entrance@ravensworth.org
Hospitality	Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063	Hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
New Neighbors	Cindy Cho	757-672-4366	New@ravensworthfarm.org
Directory Coordinator	Stephen Beste	703-321-9110	Directory@ravensworthfarm.org
Advertising	Sue Hillmer	703 282-3964	Advertising@ravensworthfarm.org
Distribution	Elissa Myers	703-626-9087	Membership@ravensworthfarm.org
Farmer Editor	Roberto Bernate	703-244-7460	Ravensworth.Farmer@gmail.com
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Advertising/Flyers	John Ritchie	703-321-8427	VP1@ravensworthfarm.org
Distribution	2 nd Vice President		VP2@ravensworthfarm.org
Advertising	Sue Hillmer	703 282-3964	Advertising@ravensworthfarm.org
Webmaster	Roberto Bernate	703-244-7460	Webmaster@ravensworthfarm.org
Community Organizations			
PTA President, Ravensworth	Megan Farinholt		President@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Dan VanBrunt		President@ravensworthfarmpool.com
Green Thumb Garden Club	Eleanor Lillo	703-354-2454	Garden@ravensworthfarm.org

Please help fill these open positions with the RFCA!

**President, 1st & 2nd Vice President, Recording Secretary,
Corresponding Secretary, Green Committee Lead,
& Distribution for The Farmer**

**HELP
WANTED**

**Please contact Marcie Winitt (prez@ravensworthfarm.org)
for additional information or to volunteer.**

**HELP
WANTED**

RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS

We are proud to announce our outstanding employees for the 2023-2024 school year.

- Outstanding New Teacher- Elsy Arias, Grade 2 - Spanish Immersion Teacher
- Outstanding Teacher- Maggie Stem, Special Education Teacher & Special Education Department Chair
- Outstanding Professional Employee - Jessica Scharpf, Reading Teacher
- Outstanding Operational Employee - Ricardo Bermudez, Office Assistant



Congratulations to these individuals! We are so thankful to have them as part of the Ravensworth Family. We appreciate the multiple ways that they go above and beyond to make our school community such a special place.

We are also proud to recognize two former Ravensworth Ravens who represented us well at the collegiate level. Billy Edwards (University of Maryland) played at the Music City Bowl and was named MVP. Matt Hibner, University of Michigan, played at the Rose Bowl.

Erika Aspuria
Principal
[Ravensworth Elementary School](#)
[#RavensWorth](#) - Soaring to New Heights



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in The *Farmer* at no cost to Ravensworth Farm residents. Classified ads may be placed by sending them to rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org or to PO Box 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

<p>ODD-JOBS, YARD WORK, AND MORE</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>DECORATED CAKES</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>DONATIONS ACCEPTED</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>WANTED</p>	<p>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.</p>

Association Meetings & Deadlines 2023

MONTH	BOARD MEETING/FARMER DEADLINE/FLYERS DUE DEADLINE FLYER DEADLINE	DETAILS
September	6	RFCA Board Meeting
October	4	RFCA Board Meeting
October	19	RFCA General Membership Meeting*
November	1	RFCA Board Meeting
December	6	RFCA Board Meeting
January	3	RFCA Board Meeting
February	7	RFCA Board Meeting
March	6	RFCA Board Meeting
March	21	RFCA General Membership Meeting*
April	3	RFCA Board Meeting
May	1	RFCA Board Meeting
May	23	RFCA General Membership Meeting*

General Membership Meetings are held at the Ravensworth Elementary School cafeteria.

All Board Meetings are open to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are 7:30 PM online. For a link to join, contact Ginger Rogers, RFCA Recoding Secretary, RecSec@ravensworthfarm.org.

HELP WANTED: FARMER DELIVERY



The RFCA continues the search for a few organizations interested in delivering The Farmer to every house in the neighborhood which **will now be three issues between September through June - coincident with the General Membership Meetings**. If your organization would like to take part in this paid service opportunity, please contact: RavensworthFarmer@gmail.com.

RFCA DIRECTORY SALES

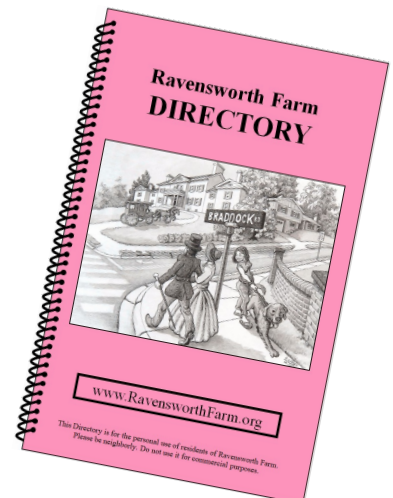
The 2024 neighborhood directory is here.

Get yours by joining the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association for \$15/year.

Join at the School on Election Day (November 7th), or online at ravensworthfarm.org.

We will deliver a Directory to you.

Contact Directory@ravensworthfarm.org for questions or further information.



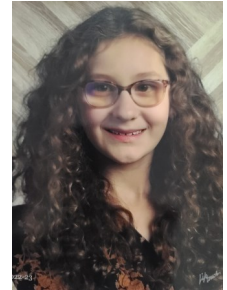
KIDS' CORNER

Meet Zemora, Looking to be a Mother's Helper

Hi, my name is Zemora!

I live in the Ravensworth Community; here are a few reasons why I would love to be a Mother's Helper:

- ✓ I've always loved working with kids. I think they're so cute and creative. I love seeing how their little minds work and develop
- ✓ I love to clean and help with chores around the house. I think it's really fun and relaxing. I often help my parents around the house with laundry, dishes, sweeping, and other things like that
- ✓ Having a job and working with kids is something I've wanted to do for a long time. I love seeing adults taking care of kids and seeing the different ways that they would interact with them and try to learn from them
- ✓ **I'm very responsible**
- ✓ I am a competitive figure skater and I wake up by myself very early every morning to practice at a local ice rink
- ✓ I am a Girl Scout and I recently took a Blast class to earn my babysitting badge
- ✓ **I am officially fully certified to be a babysitter**
- ✓ By being a Mother's Helper, I could get more experience and learn how to be the best helper/babysitter in the future.



Please text my mom Carrie at 703-286-9829 to ask questions and set up some time to work with me.

BLAST! Babysitter Lessons and Safety Training

Certificate of Completion

This verifies that

Student Name Zemora XXXXXXX

has completed the BLAST! Babysitter Lesson and Safety Training program of the American Academy of Pediatrics

<u>11/11/2023</u>	<u>Ashburn, VA</u>	<u>Dr. Larry Newell</u>
Course Completion Date	Course Location	Course Coordinator Name

2023 HOLIDAY LIGHTS & DECORAIONS JUDGING!

By Ginger Rogers & Elissa Myers

The Holiday Lights & Decorations winners are in! Thank you to all who beared the weather challenges to vote for your favorites.

Best Overall - 5220 Queensberry Avenue



Best Windows/Doors - 7938 Ellet Lane



2023 HOLIDAY LIGHTS & DECORAIONS JUDGING! (Continued)

Best Religious - 5415 Inverchapel Road



Kidz Choice - 7908 Hatteras Lane



Runners-Up - (Formerly *Honorable Mentions*, but that sounds like a loser term.)

8121 Adair Lane
8105 Carrick Lane
8009 Ellet Road
7908 Hatteras Lane

8105 Bullock Lane
8115 Carrick Lane
5617 Flag Run Drive
5314 Inverchapel Road

8101 Carrick Lane
8127 Carrick Lane
7920 Gosport Lane
5622 Inverchapel Road

8104 Carrick Lane
7932 Ellet Lane
7916 Gosport Lane
5633 Inverchapel Road

5646 Inverchapel Road
5415 Moultrie Road
5307 Oldcastle Lane
5771 Ravenel Lane

5648 Inverchapel Road
5523 Moultrie Road
5220 Queensberry Avenue
7904 Slidell Lane

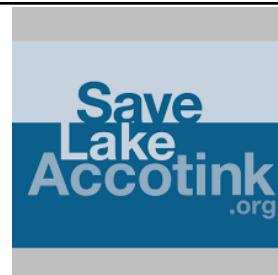
5403 Moultrie Road
5227 Oldcastle Lane
5528 Queensbury Avenue
7916 Slidell Lane

5414 Moultrie Road
5303 Oldcastle Lane
5512 Ravenel Lane

SAVE ACCOTINK UPDATE

Lake Accotink Needs Your Urgent Action

Our Community Must Take a Stand to Save Lake Accotink



Introduction: *Concerned citizens of Fairfax County call for action to address a critical issue – the future of Lake Accotink and how it impacts our neighborhood. As stewards of our shared natural heritage, we must unite to advocate for immediate action to safeguard the lake and its surrounding ecosystem.*

Springfield, VA – 12/18/2023 – The destiny of Lake Accotink rests not only with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors but with each concerned citizen. Save Lake Accotink implores you to join the movement and drive swift action.

Lake Accotink's fate hangs in the balance without a concrete plan for preservation. While the Lake Accotink Task Force diligently completed its findings by presenting the report to the Board of Supervisors (BOS), the Board, in turn, referred the report to the County's Environmental Committee.

[Save Lake Accotink](#) urgently calls upon the BOS to allocate funding for a scalable dredging project immediately. This is crucial to safeguard, at the very least, the current footprint and enhance the sediment trapping capacity while a comprehensive long-term plan is developed.

Act Now – Time is of the Essence!

Former Braddock District Supervisor and Task Force member John Cook, speaking for the majority of the Task Force, delivered a compelling message to the BOS on December 12, stressing the need for immediate action: "You need to make a decision now...because time is not on our side. Preserving [the Lake] is an absolute essential."

The Task Force's report carefully examines issues raised by County staff – their reasons behind the No Dredge recommendation – revealing flaws in earlier studies, including unreliable data, incorrect cost estimates, and erroneous assumptions about dewatering and transportation options. Importantly, the report highlights that the cost of dredging could be up to 70% less than originally estimated and that the dredging maintenance cycle could be extended beyond five years, thus reducing the long-term costs.

Understanding the Value of Lake Accotink

The report offers a comprehensive understanding of the Lake's value – a critical ingredient that County staff overlooked when recommending abandoning the dredge earlier this year – incorporating socioeconomic, recreational, and environmental factors. Contrary to earlier endorsements, it emphasized Lake Accotink's unique access to open water, particularly to underserved communities, families, individuals, and those with mobility impairments – a key alignment with the [One Fairfax Policy](#).

SAVE ACCOTINK UPDATE (Continued)

The report was not intended to provide a compulsory path forward. Rather, Task Force findings serve as a guide to areas needing critical study and avoiding past failures. The Board of Supervisors and the Environmental Committee must now act swiftly and decisively. Taking urgent action is crucial to prevent the degradation of this irreplaceable County resource.

Protect Lake Accotink - Act Now!

Lake Accotink faces an imminent risk of further neglect, leading to increased siltation and transforming into an unmanageable wetland. This is not a fate we can accept. Don't be fooled; Lake Accotink's scale and Watershed characteristics cannot be converted to another Huntly Meadows, despite what some may try to convince the community. We must act now to protect the Lake for future generations.

The fight to keep the Lake in Lake Accotink Park is ongoing! We implore you to act by contacting Chairman McKay and each District Supervisor. Let them know why Lake Accotink matters to you. Please give them a sense of urgency and take immediate measures. Find sample letters and contact information for the BOS on SaveLakeAccotink.org.

For detailed insights into the Task Force Findings Report, visit the Fairfax County website at [Lake Accotink Task Force](http://LakeAccotinkTaskForce).

Your voice matters. Act now to Save Lake Accotink!**For More Information:**

Allan Robertson

Info@savelakeaccotink.org

References:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SaveLakeAccotink>

www.Savelakeaccotink.org

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/lake-accotink-task-force>

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/one-fairfax>

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 cannot be used for delivery fees. Recipients receive an Electronic Benefits 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 <http://commonhelp.virginia.gov/> or call 1-855-635-4370. For details, call the Department of Family Services Customer Care Line at 703-324-7500, TTY 711.

HAVING DIFFICULTY PREPARING MEALS?

(Article from the Department of Family Services)

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 needs, 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 once per week. Apply by calling the Department of Family Services at 703-324-5409.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - BE A BLOCK CAPTAIN

Block captains deliver pre-paid Directory orders, 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 the 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 at 703-626-9087 or Membership@ravensworthfarm.org.

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 one of her New Neighbor Committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Contact Cindy Cho at New@ravensworthfarm.org.

YOUR INFORMATION NEEDED

Please send the address (and name if you know it) for new neighbors, 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 New@ravensworthfarm.org.

COLUMNISTS & WRITERS WANTED

Are you a writer or a wanna-be writer? Do you have information to share on a regular or semi-regular basis? Join the "staff" of The Ravensworth Farmer and share your expertise or information with the other 856 homes in our neighborhood via the only medium they all receive- The Ravensworth Farmer. Email Shobha McConnell at Ravensworth.Farmer@gmail.com.

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 of 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 other historical information. 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 are not a member, join now via [RavensworthFarm.org](#), contact Elissa Myers to become a member at 703-321-7590, or Membership@ravensworthfarm.org, or answer the door when your Block Captain comes knocking. It would be great to welcome every one of our nearly 860 households into the Civic Association!

ADVERTISE IN THE RAVENSWORTH FARMER

Reach nearly 860 homes with news of your services or merchandise seven times over the 2022-2023 year. Contact Sue Hillmer at Advertising@ravensworthfarm.org for information on permanent ads in the body of The Ravensworth Farmer.

"GEM" REVIEWS

The Ravensworth Farm Community Association board wants to encourage neighbors to share great ideas with neighbors. Whether it's an eatery, theater, pool, park, repair place, preschool, or builder, if you've found a "gem" ... please share. Send reviews to Ravensworth.Farmer@gmail.com. Thanks for sharing!

KIDS' CORNER

Kids' Corner is a place where Ravensworth kids 18 and under can have their writing and art published for all of Ravensworth Farm to see. Send your 500 or fewer-word submissions or black-and-white art (high-resolution file) 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.

FARMER DELIVERY IN JEOPARDY

As you might know already, delivery of the Farmer has been unreliable, not timely, and a tedious effort, at its best.

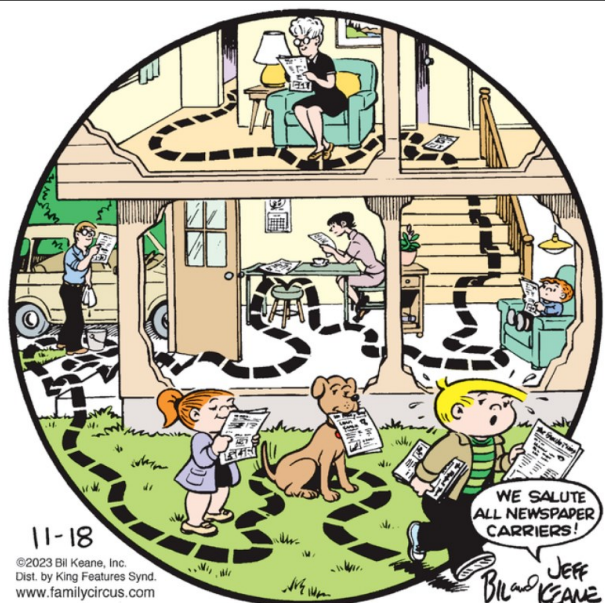
The March-printed Farmer is coming up next month.

Considering the Farmer is now only printed three-times per fiscal year, it seems an almost insurmountable chore to get it delivered.

We are looking to find permanent solutions to this growing crises.

Please submit any suggestions to the editor at Ravensworth.Farmer@gmail.com

Inset submitted by Ruth Hartman. Comics Kingdom, Family Circus, Saturday, November 18, 2023, <https://comicskingdom.com/family-circus/2023-11-18>.



11-18

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Bill and
JEFF KEANE

**“Putting a newspaper together
is fun. The hard part is
DELIVERIN’ IT!”**

ODD-JOBS, YARD WORK, AND MORE

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(Article from the Department of Family Services)

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ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP?

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