

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

September 2008

The Ravensworth Farmer

VOL. XLV Issue 1

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Neighbors,

Did anyone see the eagle flying over Queensberry Avenue recently? This summer did you see the baby foxes running around in the evening? If you're near the lake, you can hear a kingfisher's distinctive clicking sound. What a special neighborhood we live in, especially if you like wildlife and nature. As the county enters a deep budget crunch, we need to be prepared for service cuts across the county. Our elected leaders will have to make difficult choices in the months and years ahead. You should know that one of those cuts being considered is at our local parks, specifically Lake Accotink. The proposed cuts will eliminate all staffing and subsequent services and activities out of the lakeside parks. Our residents need to communicate with those leaders regarding the importance of continuing to staff and fund the activities at Accotink Park.

If you feel keeping the park open with proper staffing is important to you and your family, please send a note to the following elected and appointed officials:

Con't on Pg. 3

Directory Update Questionnaire Attached

Please be sure to complete the enclosed flyer to update your information for our annual community Directory. This is the only chance you'll have to submit this information! **The deadline is October 15th**.

Community Activities

Golden Ravens Wednesday, Sept 24, Pg. 5

Garden of the Season Judging Monday, Sept 29

> Sweet Monday Monday, Oct 6, Pg. 5

****RFCA Membership Meeting**** Thursday, October 23, 2008

Did you see the flooding of Lake Accotink under Braddock Road and down at the Marina? Go to our website (**www.ravensworthfarm.org**) and view the photo gallery!

Article I, Section 3, of the Civic Association's By-Laws provides that the Association shall be strictly non-partisan, non-political, and nonsectarian. Accordingly, the invitation of elected officials and other public figures to speak at Association meetings, and the inclusion of paid political or commercial advertisements in the Farmer or in the attached flyers, do not constitute endorsements by the Association.

RAVENSWORTH FARM CIVIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Brent Reynolds 703-321-8383 1st Vice President 703-850-7338 Luis Londono 2nd Vice President Stephen Beste 703-321-9110 **Recording Secretary** Katherine Craig 703-321-0176 **Corresponding Secretary** 703-321-4919 Hans Jansen Richmon Tun 703-321-1404 Treasurer STANDING COMMITTEES Legislative & County Affairs Vacant Public Service (Streets & Sidewalks) Vacant 703-321-7856 Schools & Education Ellen Eggerton 703-321-4948 Green Committee Jim Hickey 703-321-8535 Hans Jansen 703-321-4919 Membership & Communications Julia Johnson 703-321-8845 Zoning Committee Ellen Eggerton 703-321-4948 Stan Orndorff 703-321-7990 SPECIAL COMMITTEES **Entrance** Committee Katherine Craig 703-321-3149 Marti Terry 703-321-9668 703-321-8063 Hospitality Ruth Hartman Ramona Michels 703-321-7664 New Neighbors Miffie Clem 703-321-7875 Cultural Committee Vacant Vietnamese Dinora Gonzalez Spanish 703-321-0160 Korean Monica Kim 703-321-0338 German & Russian Ilfira Reynolds 703-321-8383 Arabic Joumana Al-Naji 703-321-8002 Coordinator Directory Stephen Beste 703-321-9110 Advertising Luis Londono 703-850-7338 Kathleen Powers 703-321-7523 Editor Farmer Luis Londono 703-850-7338 Advertising Susan Deyampert 703-321-3150 Preparation Laura Asiello 703-321-7840 Printing, Flyers, Assembly Stephen Beste 703-321-9110 Distribution Neighborhood Watch Vacant DiazFD@hotmail.com PTA President, Ravensworth Elementary Dave Diaz Green Thumb Garden Club Laura Asiello 703-321-7840 703-321-9143 Golden Ravens Martha Sargent

September 2008

Association Calendar 2008 - 2009							
MONTH	BOARD MEETING	Farmer DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT Farmer	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING	
September	3	3	5	12	20		
October	1	1	3	9	18	23	
November	5	5	7	14	22		
December	3	3	5	12	20		
January	7	7	9	16	31		
February	4	4	6	13	21		
March	4	4	6	13	21	26	
April	1	1	2	17	25		
May	Apr. 29	Apr. 29	1	8	16	28	

Membership or Board Meetings are canceled in the event of Fairfax County Public School's early closing or school cancellation.

Con't from Pg. 1

Supervisor Sharon Bulova: braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov Chairman Gerry Connolly: chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov Winnie Shapiro: wshapiro@cox.net (Braddock District representative to the Fairfax County Park Authority)

It's my personal belief that instead of eliminating staffing, Accotink could use an <u>increase</u> in staffing. With an increased staff, Tawny Hammond, the Park Director, might be able to boost attendance and increase the Park's revenue. Lake Accotink is an extremely popular local park and we need to keep it staffed properly. See the article later in this issue for more information.

This is a special neighborhood and our close relationship to the park makes it so. Has anyone seen the beavers or river otter lately? Is that coyote still running around up near the Bouchard's house? If anyone catches any animals on camera be sure to email them to **webmaster@ravensworthfarm.org** to upload them to our community website. Maybe we could have a monthly "best animal" shot posted?

Hope everyone enjoys a fine fall season.

Thanks,

Brent Reynolds—President Ravensworth Farm Civic Association prez@ravensworthfarm.org, 1.571.214.9068

NEIGHBORHOOD THEFT

This summer a car on Nutting had a window broken, a GPS stolen, and the wallet removed from the car's glove compartment. This happened late on a Sunday night. Early Monday morning, a neighbor discovered the wallet on a nearby lawn and the police were called.

The police said people walk through neighborhoods looking at parked cars for evidence of a GPS. Even if it is hidden, the suction cup on the window is a tipoff. A GPS system is a very popular item to steal.

Be aware and keep watch around the neighborhood. Let's keep Ravensworth Farm safe -- report any suspicious people or events.



HOW DO I STOP MY NEIGHBORS FROM DUMPING OR ENCROACHING ONTO PARK LAND?

Please call the Lake Accotink Park Office at 703-569-0285 to report any possible illegal dumping or encroaching onto park land. The information will be forwarded to an inspector who will check the area and take appropriate action. It may also require the installation of a "No Dumping" sign.

BLOCK CAPTAINS URGENTLY NEEDED

The RFCA membership drive is starting soon and there is a need for Block Captains. So please do not delay, volunteer today. It is important that we have Block Captains to collect the Civic Association Dues and distribute the Neighborhood Directories. To volunteer please call Julia Johnson at 703-321-8845.

HOW TO SUBMIT ITEMS FOR THE FARMER

It's easy to submit items for the Farmer. How do you know when the deadline is? It's always the same day as our RFCA board meeting—usually the first Wednesday of the month. The easiest way to get something in the Farmer is email the editor: <u>kathleen@ravensworthfarm.org</u> or you can phone her at 703-321-7523.

WOULD YOU LIKE A WEEKLY PHONE CALL? (VOLUNTEERS ARE WELCOME, TOO!)



The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke announces its new "Friendly Caller" service starting in September 2008. Adult volunteers will place ongoing, friendly telephone calls to older adults in our community who wish this service. Our caring, depend-able volunteers will arrange to call once a week at a regularly scheduled time for an informal chat. The focus is to let shut-ins know that someone is thinking about them, provide companionship and assist older adults in maintaining connections within their community. If you would like to participate in the program or are able to volunteer, please call the SCFB office at 703-323-4788. Training will be provided.

The Ravensworth Farmer

GOLDEN RAVENS

Do you have questions about your medications? Worried about drug interactions or side effects? Join the Golden Ravens for their first program, "What to Ask Your Pharmacist." Your friends, neighbors or relatives can join us as we listen to a licensed pharmacist and get the answers to some of those questions:

Date:Wednesday, Sept. 24Time:11:00 a.m. sharpPlace:Community of Christ Church, 5610 Inverchapel Road

Bring a bag lunch; beverages will be provided. Questions? Need a ride? Contact Dick or Martha Sargent, 321-9143 or Ruth Miller, 321-7477.

GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club's October meeting will be at the home of Donna Soderholm. A very important topic, Guidelines for pruning, will be discussed. We always welcome new members!

Please call Laura Asciello with questions. 703-321-7840

Get ready! Garden of the Season judging will take place on Monday, September 29.

SWEET MONDAY

1st Monday of the month

October—June, 7:00PM — 8:30PM, 7938 Ellet Road, Springfield

(It's ok to come late and/or leave early....we are very relaxed)

Door prizes, social time and lots of good food, coffee and tea.

Invite a friend to join you!!!

For info call Anita Aberle 703-321-3379 or Erin Coelho 703-321-4878

NEXT ON STAGE: PETPOURRI FROM THE SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY THEATER

PetPourri is a musical comedy revue filled with hilarious and touching song stories of people and their pets. Performances will be held on: October 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 31, November 1, 2, at the New School of Northern Virginia, John Swazy Theatre, Fairfax Virginia (just off Pickett Road.) Friday and Saturday performances start at 8:00pm, Sunday performances begin at 7:00pm. Tickets will be available here on the SCT web site starting September 8, or you can reserve seats by calling 703.866.6238. For more information see: http://www.sctonline.org.

HOSPITALITY

Hospitalizations: Beverly Schubert on Gosport Lane

Deaths: We extend our sympathy to the family of Dick Hunter, who passed away Aug. 29th. Dick and his wife Allie were past presidents of the Golden Ravens. Cards may be sent to: 312 NE 7th Street, Oak Grove, MO 84075



FARMER'S MARKET AT WAKEFIELD REC CENTER

As summer winds down, don't forget to get your fresh fruit and vegetables at our local Farmer's Market: Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 6:00 pm in Wakefield Park through October 29th. The baked goods, homemade ice cream and local produce will have you coming back for more!

POSSIBLE CLOSING OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

Did you know that the Park Authority is proposing to close the lakeside parks-Lake Accotink, Fairfax, and Burke Lake? This means no boat rentals, camps, classes, concerts and other events. The staff would be moved to existing Recreation Centers and only a minimum of maintenance staff would come in to pick up trash and mow the grass. Besides the loss of the wonderful services and experiences at Lake Accotink, if the park is "abandoned", vandalism and vagrancy would likely increase.



What can we do about this? Contact our local leaders (see the President's letter for email addresses.) Or, attend a meeting and speak up for our parks! A series of public comment meetings have been scheduled on the budget this fall. Supervisors need to hear what residents value the most before they decide where to take budget cuts. Please go to the county website at <u>http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/publicmeetings.htm</u> to see the schedule, and help us get the word out about these meetings! Attend and tell the Board of Supervisors how important our parks are!

GUIDE TO INVASIVE PLANTS



The Fairfax County Park Authority has published "Non-Native Invasive ID and Control," a guide to the non-native plants lurking in borders and back-yards.

The guidebooks feature 150 full-color photographs of common non-native invasive plants, natives and non-native look-alikes. The guidebook, featuring plastic cards bound with two steel rings, is washable with soap and water, making it a durable, backyard tool.

The cards are divided into color-coded sections for vines, trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Both the common and Latin names are given for each species.

Tips are provided for control and eradication of non-native invasive plants on personal property, as well as seasonal information such as when you might expect to see flowers and fruit.

Park Authority staff and volunteers worked closely with county residents over the past two years to compile the information for this much needed guidebook.

The guidebook is available for purchase at nature centers for \$9.95, and also can be purchased by calling the Natural Resources Hotline at (703) 324-8580.

A LOOK BACK AT BRADDOCK

Braddock District Historic Properties - A Guided Bus and Walking Tour

Join us for "A Look Back at Braddock" on Sunday, October 26, 2008, 1 – 5 PM. This tour of historic properties in and near Braddock District will visit Old Burke Village, the 1912 Burke Elementary School, Silas Burke House, St. Mary's of Sorrows Catholic Church, Jerusalem Baptist Church, and other sites important in the early life of our community, county and region. Hear tour guides and owners tell about the people and events connected to these too often "forgotten gems". In addition to exteriors, a few selected properties will include interior tours. Space is limited to 42 participants due to bus capacity. Advance ticket purchase required. Cost \$20 per person. Tickets will be for sale at the Braddock District Office (cash and check only), Lake Accotink Park Headquarters (credit card and telephone orders also accepted), and, if still available on October 4th, at the Oak Hill Open House. For further information contact the Braddock District office, 703-425-9300, <u>http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock_or Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285, http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink.</u>

FREE SHREDDING OF OLD DOCUMENTS

Busy Buddies will be hosting a community wide shredding opportunity on **Saturday, November 1, from 10:00 am-2:00 p.m**. Details will follow in the October *Farmer*. All residents are encouraged to start cleaning out those file cabinets and shoe boxes and participate in a safe way to dispose of sensitive material.

ANOTHER SECURE DOCUMENT SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, Oct. 11 from 9:00 to 2:00 Braddock Government Center 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. County residents may bring up to 5 medium-sized boxes of paper to be shredded at no charge. For more information visit the web-site: <u>www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recyclying</u>.

NEED A RIDE TO VOTE?

I'd like to offer a ride to any Farmer to cast their ballot in November. I will be home that day, and if anyone needs a lift to and from their home in Ravensworth to vote at the school, all they need do is call me on Monday or on Election Day at (703) 321-7108. This offer is only for the Presidential '08 election.

David Chadwick , Landgrave Lane

ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATION DEADLINES

For the November 4, 2008 General Election:

Absentee by mail/fax October 28 Absentee in person November 1

For more information and locations for in person absentee voting, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb

OTHER VOTING INFORMATION

Voter registration closes October 6 at 6:00 pm.



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WHAT IS A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

Encyclopedia Britannica sites a chamber of commerce as a voluntary organization of business firms, public officials, professional people and public-spirited citizens primarily interested in publicizing, promoting and developing commercials and industrial opportunities in their area. Chambers may also participate in programs that improve community schools, streets, housing, fire and police protections, and public park facilities.

The first chamber of commerce was formed in Marseille, France in 1599. In 1768 the New York state chamber became the first to form in the U.S. Today there are chambers in most major economic centers in the U.S. and Europe.

Also known as a trade association, chambers of commerce serve as a larger voice for their members on issues of common interest including, but certainly not limited to, legislative affairs. Most chambers are private entities governed by a board of directors elected by the membership. Generally the board serves without any pay and sets organizational policies. Membership dues are usually determined by the board based on budgetary needs.

Chambers will often form public-private partnerships for the betterment of members and the community as a whole. Transportation and taxes continue to be key issues for chambers in the Washington D.C. area. The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, located in southeast Fairfax County, was organized for the purpose of bringing businesses together in the Greater Springfield area for the purpose of developing and promoting business opportunities for the benefit of our community. Any corporation, partnership, person, or association may apply for membership. Our membership includes both minority and woman-owned businesses and ranges from restaurants to hardware stores, government contractors t florist shops, Web site developers to utility companies, community banks to professional services.

Are you not being heard? Do you need help taking your business to the next level? Are you aware of the growth coming to the Greater Springfield area? As a volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the cause of business, we represent and advocate for our members. We campaign for good roads and redevelopment of business, we represent and advocate for our members. We campaign for good roads and redevelopment of our commercial areas. We provide means to unlimited networking opportunities, resources through our Web site, and educational programs for our members. Image, our print edition newsletter is published bi-monthly and weekly electronic news is used to keep members up to date with Chamber events and initiatives.

To benefit the community, and in return our business members, the Greater Springfield Chamber gives scholarships to area students and facilitates partnerships between local businesses and Fairfax County schools. During the cold months Chamber member businesses serve as drop-off locations for winter clothing and food donations while still more businesses adopt families through area social service organizations.

The Chamber sponsors a variety of business friendly activities. For more information about Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce events or to sign-up for the Chamber's e-newsletter, visit **www.springfieldchamber.org**.





WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS

5619 Ravenel Frank Bennett

Manny & Carey Ramirez 5309 Queensberry Ave.

Muhammad & Zaitoon Yousif 5406 Queensberry Ave.

John & Kelli Higgins & Family 5228 Inverchapel Rd.

Saehaan & Suchet Sukonya & Family 8108 Drayton Lane

Heriberto Perez & Yesenia Ebora & Family 7917 Hatteras Lane

Basant & Bidhya Shrestha 8114 Carrick La.

David Eliff, Jr. & Lejia Lombardi 8107 Carrick Lane Willie & Sophia Lawson 8131 Drayton La.

Andrew Bacik, Donald Covaleski, John Edelman, Chip Krivell 7819 Ravenel Ct.

Anthony & Elizabeth Martinez & Family 5411 Inverchapel Rd.

Paul & Nancy Henson 5425 Inverchapel Rd.

Richard & Kristine Hensle-Pettyjohn 8013 Gosport La.

Maja Mateo & Tamika McCory 5317 Inverchapel Rd.

Sean & Kerin Mokarem 5226 Kepler La.

When a new neighbor moves in on your street, please give Miffie Clem a call at 703-321-7875.



<u>CLASSIFIED ADS</u> may be placed in the *Farmer* at no cost to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Classified ads <u>must be mailed</u> to: The Ravensworth *Farmer*, P.O. Box 1020, Springfield, VA 22151. This classified ads section is a service to Ravensworth residents, and is not intended for business or commercial use. Accordingly, we will run ads for house sales, commercial services, etc. in this section once; if the advertiser wishes to repeat them, he/she must shift them to the paid ad category.

CARPOOLERS WANTED	I am looking to form a carpool to the Government Center building complex. I work in the Herrity building 7:30 to 4 but can shift my day 30 minutes later. I would like to share the driving. We can arrange for any number of days a week. I may have to pick up kids one day a week for after school activities. Please call me at 703-321-4948 or 703-324-1861 at work.
WANTED	Good used furniture for needy low income families in the Annandale area. Needed are beds, dressers, kitchen tables and chairs, sofas, end tables, lamps, kitchen utensils, dishes and pans. Call Bill Sinclair at 703-321-7529 or the ACCA warehouse 703-256-1991. Call the warehouse on Saturday mornings only.



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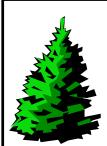
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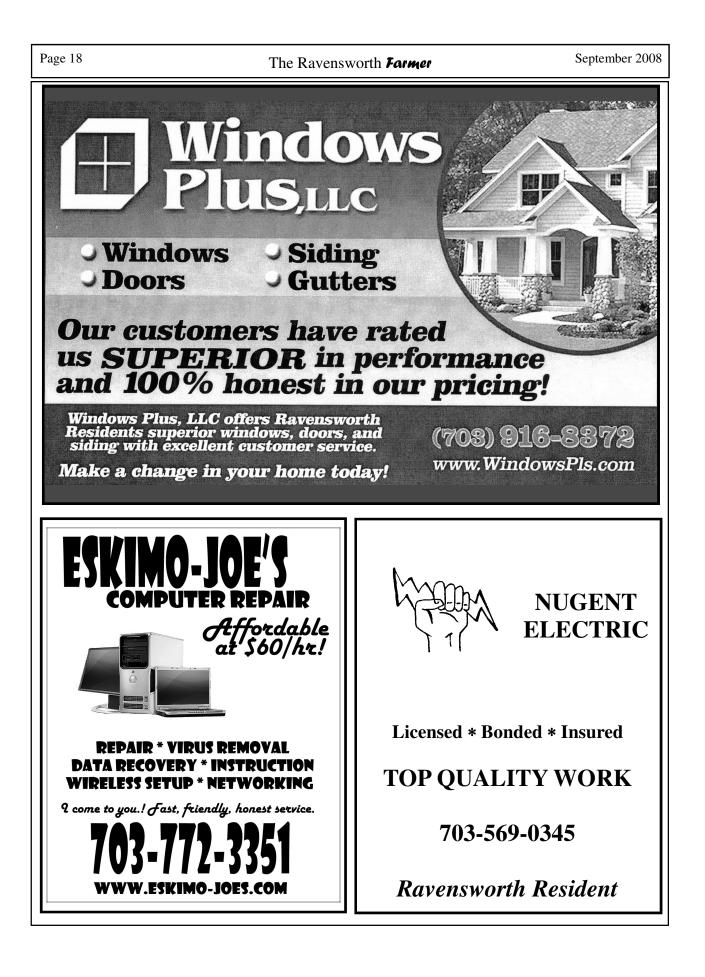
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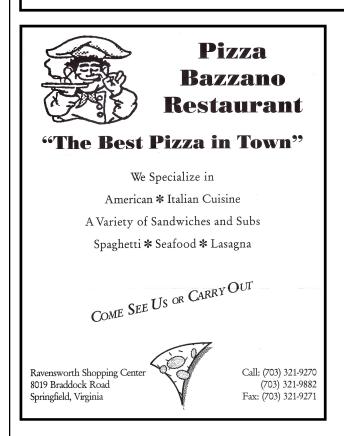
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The Ravensworth Farmer

September 2008

