



MANDOR HOUSE 1796-1925
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

January 2011

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

VOL. XLVII Issue 5

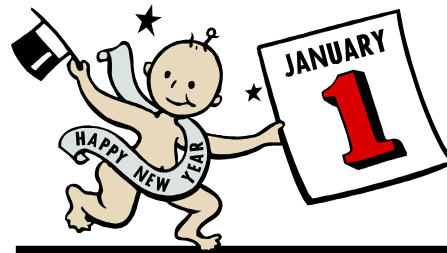
FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear Neighbors:

I am writing this on the day after Christmas, sitting at the dining room table staring out at a sea of toys and presents strewn underneath the tree. Earlier that morning I walked my lab around Lake Accotink. As it was freezing cold, most sensible people were snuggled up in their homes. The trail was covered with snow on the back side of the lake where the sun doesn't reach it. I was looking for deer or fox, and for the first time in a long time, I did not see any animals at all. There were only two or three other intrepid souls out walking their dogs or braving a run. The lake was completely frozen over and the park was quiet and peaceful. It is almost unbelievable to think that this area is less than a mile from 495 and only 15 minutes to DC.

When I talk to people about living in Ravensworth Farm I invariably mention two things; the first is the easy commute into DC, and the second is Lake Accotink. My wife and I were only married two months, in 2008, when we put in a bid on our house. We were walking around the lake and talking about how great it would be if we got to live in a neighborhood this close to a beautiful park. We were laughing and talking about pushing a jogging stroller and walking our dog. Neither of us would have believed that eighteen months later that is exactly what

Con't Pg. 3



CALENDAR & ACTIVITIES

RFCA Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 27th
Ravensworth Elementary, 7:30PM, pg. 5

Garden Club

Wednesday, February 2nd, pg. 4

Winter Hayride

Saturday, February 5th, pg. 4

Golden Ravens

Wednesday, February 23rd, pg. 4

**Ravensworth Holiday
Display Judging, Pg. 5**

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

RAVENSWORTH FARM CIVIC ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Marty Robinson	703-297-7255
1st Vice President	Ellen Eggerton	703-321-4948
2nd Vice President	Jacquelyn Fix	703-321-3048
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151
Corresponding Secretary	Kevin Joyce	703-587-7989
Treasurer	Richmon Tun	703-321-1404

STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative & County Affairs	Ruth Orem	703-321-8061
Public Service (Streets & Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-321-9668
Schools & Education	Anita Bhatnagar	703-942-6806
Green Committee	Jim Hickey	703-321-8535
Membership & Communications	Elissa Myers	703-321-7590
Zoning Committee	Ellen Eggerton Stan Orndorff	703-321-4948 703-321-7990

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee		Marti Terry	703-321-9668
		Brenda Soares	703-321-7856
		Margaret Kinder	703-764-9576
Hospitality		Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063
		Ramona Michels	703-321-7664
New Neighbors		Melanie Bennett	571-282-3291
		Amy Reynolds	703-321-7317
Cultural Committee	Vietnamese	Tam Nguyen	703-321-8338
	Spanish	Dinora Gonzalez	703-321-0160
	Korean	Seo Pani	703-321-8081
	German & Russian	Ifira Reynolds	703-321-8383
	Arabic	Vacant	
Directory	Coordinator	Stephen Beste	703-321-9110
	Advertising	Katherine Craig	703-321-3149
Farmer	Editor	Kathleen Powers	703-321-7523
	Preparation	Susan Deyampert	703-321-3150
	Printing, Flyers, Assembly	Laura Asiello	703-321-7840
	Distribution	Jacquelyn Fix	703-321-3048
	Advertising	Katherine Craig	703-321-3149
Neighborhood Watch		Vacant	
PTA President, Ravensworth Elementary		George H Brodie	703-426-3600
Pool President		Amy Reynolds	703-321-7313
Green Thumb Garden Club		Laura Asiello	703-321-7840
Golden Ravens		Kay Anderson	703-321-9230

Association Calendar 2010 - 2011

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT <i>Farmer</i>	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
January	4	4	7	12	22	27
February	1	1	4	11	26	
March	1	1	4	11	19	24
April	Mar. 29	Mar. 29	1	6	30	
May	3	3	6	11	21	26

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

we're doing almost every day. I would encourage anyone who enjoys the park as much as we do to look into the local group, FLAP; it stands for Friends of Lake Accotink Park.

We have had the chance this past year to meet many people in Ravensworth Farms. I've met a lot of folks through my meetings with the Civic Association, going to parties, swim lessons, or just walking around the neighborhood. My wife has been going to the Fabulous Friday's group and also meeting other Moms with common interests. It seems the more we get to know about this community, the better we like it.

Whatever holiday you observed, I hope it was a happy one.

Marty Robinson, RFCA President, prez@ravensworthfarm.org, 703-297-7255

WANTED: NEW NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR

We now have an active, interested neighborhood watch committee. Tom Mathias is stepping down and we need someone to coordinate this important activity. Are you interested? Then, please contact Marty Robinson 703-297-7255 or Tom Mathias 703-321-7187 for more details.



GOLDEN RAVENS DON'T JUST LIKE TO PARTY...

...They also enjoy a nice outing for a meal now and then. They will be enjoying the hospitality of Greenspring Retirement community for lunch the fourth Wednesday in January. Then they plan to journey to the Annandale Silverado for lunch on the fourth Wednesday in February.

Golden Ravens are the senior citizens of Ravensworth Farm who meet to greet each other and learn more about the history they have all shared in creating our neighborhood. Living in isolated homes as we do, there is little opportunity to really make relationships which can help sustain one another in the sunset years.

The Golden Ravens also provide the opportunity for helping when help is needed and to feel part of the larger community of senior citizens in Fairfax County. Whether it is hosting a speaker on issues in aging or just enjoying the mutual company of neighbors, the monthly meetings which convene at the Community of Christ Church on Inverchapel (usually at 11AM) provide the foundation for mutual aid when it could be needed the most.

Add the Golden Ravens to your New Year's resolutions and make a new friend or more. Call Joan Crofford at 703-321-7809 for transportation if needed and for more information.

GARDEN CLUB



The Garden Club will be meeting on Wednesday, February 2nd at the home of Katrin Fletcher. The program will be "Gardening with Native Plants". We always welcome new members! Call Laura Asiello with questions: 703-321-7840.

Garden Tip for February: Bring some spring into your house at the end of February by cutting forsythia and forcing the blooms in your house. What a welcomed sight those yellow buds will be!

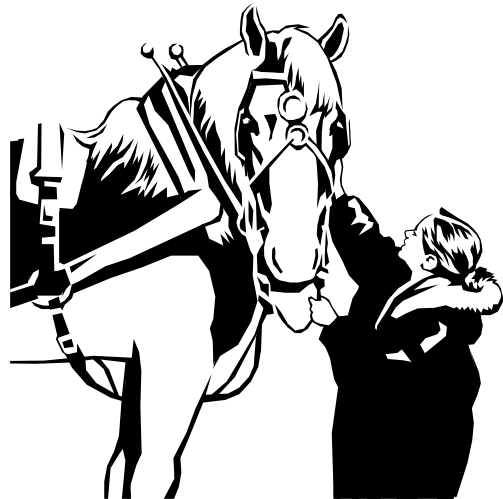
WINTER HAYRIDE FOR CHILDREN -- NEW DATE!

The draft horses are coming! Bring your children for a very special ride through the neighborhood in a wagon pulled by Belgian Draft Horses.

Due to a conflict with the vendor, the hayride has now been re-scheduled for:

**Saturday, February 5th
4:00 to 6:00 pm**

Meet at the church.



RFCA IS GOING WILD!!!

Mark your calendars now for a special January meeting of the Civic Association. A Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist will speak to us about living with the wild animals in our neighborhood.

When:	Thursday, January 27 (Snow Day: February 3)
Time:	7:30PM
Location:	Ravensworth Elementary School Library



Come and bring your questions about deer, feral cats, coyotes, rats, foxes, hawks and other creatures we see in our neighborhood!

Editor's note: the date was incorrectly listed in last month's Farmer. It really is on the 27th. Thursday was correct, but not the date.

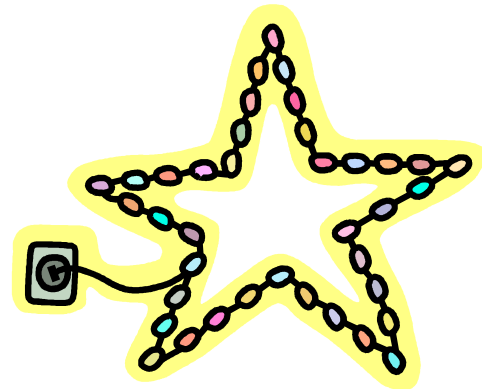
CHRISTMAS DECORATION WINNERS

Ravensworth dazzled with holiday lights, wreaths, displays and decorations this year. The following homes won the annual "Lights of the Season" awards:

Overall	5235 Queensberry
Best Door	7918 Gosport
Religious	7912 Foote
Kid's Choice	5421 Inverchapel

Honorable Mention:

5655 Ravenel
5315 Moultrie
5615 Rathbone
7911 Hatteras
5616 Rathbone
5404 Moultrie
8009 Ellet
8016 Hatteras



NEWS FROM THE SHOPPING CENTER

- The new Chinese restaurant is Hong Kong Express. Phone 703-321-8889 or 8838. They specialize in Szechuan, Hunan and Mandarin cuisine. Open until 10:00 pm most days and 11:00 pm on Fridays and Saturdays.
- If you have a safe deposit box at the Ravensworth Bank of America (which is closing,) the keys must be returned and the contents removed before February 25th. After that date, the boxes will be drilled open and the contents sent to the bank's headquarters in Richmond, VA. The BOA branch at King's Park no longer has any safe deposit boxes; you have to go on a waiting list. Branches in Springfield and Annandale do have boxes available and BOA is offering one free year's rental for the inconvenience of moving your box's contents.

GIVE FORWARD AMERICA

NEEDED: HOLIDAY GIFT AND PHONE CARDS

We will purchase items for our Care Packages with the gift cards and will send your phone cards to our deployed service members. Mail to: America's Adopt a Soldier P.O. Box 1049 Springfield VA 22151



WE CARE

We need notes, letters and cards to send to our deployed Service Members and Veterans (Veterans Homes and Hospitals) year-round. A pack of crayons and some copy paper is just perfect to write a note of thanks or encouragement or even to draw a scene from home.

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Mary E. Keeser

Founder

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Mary.Keeser@americasadoptasoldier.org

www.americasadoptasoldier.org

F.L.A.P.

Friends of Lake Accotink have a great website: <http://www.accotink.org/>

Check it out for information on timely topics like:

- the sediment from the HOT lanes expansion and how it's entering the lake
- battling weevils
- great walking trails
- conditions of the streams
- lawn tips



GREEN TIP FOR THE YEAR



Are you thinking about replacing an older, working appliance with a new one “just to save energy?” Then, think again. The greenest appliance is the one you already have—especially if it’s still working. It is NOT better to replace a working appliance with a higher efficiency-rated model. The amount of imbedded energy that it takes to process raw materials, manufacture and transport a new appliance would not be recovered by its operation as a “new high-efficiency” appliance. So, replace a broken machine, but don’t replace a working appliance.

— Ellen Eggerton

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR PETS & THEIR PEOPLE

It is the start of a new year, and people's thoughts often turn to diet and exercise, making up for holiday indulgences. Pets also suffer from overeating and lack of exercise. But there are more things to consider than diet and exercise when it comes to being a good example for our pets. Here, in no particular order, are a few tips to a healthier lifestyle for our pets and animals in need.

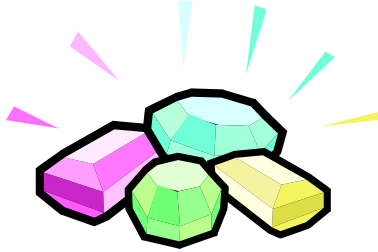
1. **Exercise** — Regular exercise has the obvious health benefits, but it also is a great time to bond with our pets. A simple daily walk helps a dog learn proper manners, provides some good quality time, and does wonders for the human counterpart, too! Keeping pets at the proper body weight reduces the risk of heart and joint problems, diabetes, and a host of other poor health conditions.
2. **Health Check Up** — A regular visit to your veterinarian is the best way to stay ahead of potential problems. Annual examinations of teeth, heart/lungs, and body condition overall will be less costly than waiting for a problem to develop and your pet suffering needlessly from complications of preventable problems. Having a good "baseline" of information about your pet also gives the veterinarian something to compare against and determine exactly what is wrong when something isn't quite right with your pet.
3. **Good Nutrition** — Like humans, pets who eat poor quality food just don't have the health reserves than those that a good balanced diet. Poor skin, hair coat, muscle tone, and obesity problems can be a result of a poor diet. Also, pets are not humans -- a diet rich in table scraps is not a healthy one, and can lead to problems such as obesity and pancreatitis.
4. **Good Grooming** — No one wants to be around a stinky pet. Regular grooming -- bathing, toe nail clips, brushing teeth and hair coat, parasite control -- not only make the pet more pleasing to be around, it is much healthier for the pet! For skin and coat problems that don't resolve with regular grooming, please see your veterinarian -- there may be an underlying medical condition affecting the skin, coat, or toenails.
5. **Safety** — Keeping pets safe is something most pet owners take for granted. However, take a moment to assess the toxic chemicals used in your house and yard. Are they necessary? Are all safety precautions followed? Where are household chemicals stored? Can your pet access these items? If toxins such as rodent poisons are used, can your pet access the rodents? Think too about enclosures for pets -- is the fencing secure? Can your pet get caught or hooked up on the fence, a tree, etc. and choke or be stuck out in the weather when you are away?



More tips can be found online here: <http://vetmedicine.about.com/od/pethealthinsurance/a/NewYearRes.htm>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LAKE: WINTER CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Mystery Rock Workshop (7-12 yrs)



Excavate gems, fascinating rocks, and some ancient fossils. All are yours to keep. Experience the thrill of discovery and learn how to identify your finds. You will get an excavation tool, specimen brush, log book, sorting trays and labels to record data for each of the ten specimens you dig out. Download camp forms from website.

Start Time/Day: 9am Mon/Tue
Start Date: 1/31/2011

Holiday Craft Sampler (6-10 yrs)

Are you looking for something to make Mom and Dad for the holidays? In this workshop you can make creative gifts for friends and family this holiday season. Supply fee payable to the instructor.

Start Time/Day: 10am Sat
Start Date: 2/12/2011

Beading Basics (8-Adult)

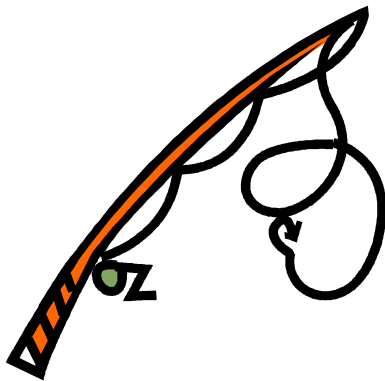
Students begin with making simple beaded projects and create more complex projects as they expand their knowledge. Students should bring nail clippers to class. Minimal supply fee payable to instructor at first class.

Start Time/Day: 10am Sat
Start Date: 2/19/2011



Fly Tying (13-Adult)

Students will learn proper fly tying techniques to create nymphs, streamers and dry flies for small mouth bass and trout. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own supplies.



Start Time/Day: 6:30pm Wed
Start Date: 2/23/2011

Register for all workshops at Parktakes online:
<http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST FINANCIAL CRIMES

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity. Only you can eliminate a thief's opportunity to steal your property, identity, and good name. Use the following tips to protect yourself against financial crimes:

- Don't keep your PIN written down and near your credit or debit card
- Sign new credit/debit cards as soon as you get them
- Destroy old cards after expiration
- Diligently review all bank statements every month
- Never give your account information over the phone to someone you don't know
- Never provide your PIN to anyone. Your bank or credit card company will never request it
- Make sure your credit/debit card is returned after each use
- Do not include your Social Security Number on your checks
- Do not write your credit card number on your check
- Get in the habit of inspecting to see whether any checks are missing from your checkbook or your check order
- Immediately notify your bank if a check is missing or if checks you ordered are not received
- Criminals who use scams for financial gain can be great con-artists. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is
- Never allow anyone to work on your home/business until you have a signed contract outlining the specific work to be done and a specific start and finish date
- Always get several estimates before accepting a contract for work on your home/business
- If you become a victim of financial crime, immediately contact your bank, the Fairfax County Police Department, and the three major Credit Reporting Agencies



**PATRONIZE THE ADVERTISERS IN THE
BACK OF THE FARMER.**

CHECK OUT THE CLASSIFIED ADS ON PG. 11

VDOT SNOW SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS NEW APPROACH TO PLOWING

When VDOT held a briefing for elected officials and their staff in early November, we were happy to hear that some lessons had been learned from the snow storms of 2009-2010, and that new practices have been adopted and will be implemented for the winter of 2010-2011. What follows is a summary of the steps being taken to ensure future snow storms will be dealt with more effectively than those in the past.

Early deployment to subdivisions: Salt/sand trucks will be pre-positioned in subdivisions whenever the forecast calls for two or more inches. Previously, trucks were deployed to subdivisions once two inches had fallen. Each subdivision will have at least one dedicated truck, with the intent of assigning the same driver to that subdivision throughout the winter. In larger subdivisions there will be more than one truck.

How neighborhoods are assigned and plowed: Crews begin plowing in subdivisions when two inches has fallen and main thoroughfares in subdivisions will be plowed repeatedly during a storm. Once the storm has stopped and those roads are clear, crews work to make residential streets and cul-de-sacs "passable." A neighborhood street is considered passable when a path is drivable (with caution) for an average passenger vehicle. The road will not be cleared curb-to-curb or to bare pavement, and may remain snow-packed, uneven and rutted (especially following any refreeze). Chemicals are not typically used in subdivisions, but crews will sand hills, curves and intersections as needed to provide traction.

Once drivers complete a minimum of one pass on the roads in a map, they report back that the route is complete. VDOT judges subdivisions complete through processed snow maps, resident call volume, AVL and feedback from VDOT monitors. To give crews a chance to finish their assigned snow maps, VDOT asks that residents wait a few days after the storm is over before reporting roads as "missed." Once crews have finished their routes, resident complaints are mapped into a database that feeds lists of locations back to the area headquarters to double-check and address. It is also helpful for crews if residents will park, if possible, on the odd-numbered side of their street to allow plows room to pass.

While VDOT does not remove snow from sidewalks or trails, crews are asked to be mindful of pushing large amounts of snow onto them. With major storms, it is often an unintended consequence of making roads passable. When shoveling driveways, residents should leave the last few feet at the curb until the street is plowed, as the truck will push some snow back. It also helps to shovel to the right facing the road.

Additional equipment: There are 600 additional contractor trucks this winter, bringing the total to 2,600 of equipment (mostly contractor) available for snow and ice removal.

VDOT road priorities: Roads are generally cleared from highest volume to lowest in the following order:

- Interstates (I-66, I-95/395, I-495, etc.),
- High-volume routes (Routes 1, 7, 28, 50, Fairfax County Parkway, Prince William County Parkway, etc.)
- Main thoroughfares in neighborhoods or developments
- Residential streets
- Cul-de-sacs

VDOT has a new number to call for reporting road hazards or ask road-related questions, 24/7. It is 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623). You can get real-time updates on traffic incidents and road conditions at www.511virginia.org. There is also a wealth of information on VDOT's website, www.virginiadot.org.

HOSPITALITY

We send get well wishes to:

- Bob Blair on Nutting Drive
- Boyce Rogers on Inverchapel Road
- Rosanne Van Horn on Moultrie Road
- Kheang Aung on Moultrie Road
- Kate (Peggy) Knudsen on Inverchapel
- Barbara McNeill, a former resident of Ravensworth now living at Greenspring



Sympathy is extended to the family of:

Mrs. Berlwyn S. Gardiner on Drayton, who died on December 21.



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in the *Farmer* at no cost to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Please email Kathleen@ravensworthfarm.org or mail to P.O. Box 1020 Springfield, VA 22151. Deadline for each month's classified ads can be found in the chart on page 3. 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.

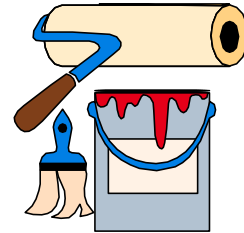
LEGAL SERVICES AVAILABLE	Various legal services to include will and deed preparation available here in the neighborhood. Call Robert at 703-321-7946.
NOTARY AVAILABLE	Don't travel; get your notary work done right here in the Ravensworth. Call Roger at 703-321-7946.
HANDYMAN SERVICES	Ravensworth resident offers handyman services for all your home's needs to include carpentry, electrical and home repairs. Call Rob at 571-244-9732.
WANTED	Good used furniture for needy low income families in the Annandale area. Needed are beds, dressers, kitchen tables & chairs, sofas, love seats, end tables lamps and TV's. Unfortunately, we cannot take sleep-sofas. Call Bill Sinclair at 703-321-7529 or the Annandale Christian Community for Action warehouse at 703-256-1991 Call the warehouse ONLY on Saturday mornings.

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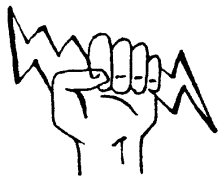
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(703) 321-5335**



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Hope Lutheran Church is an inclusive and welcoming congregation, offering a variety of ways to become involved and/or to serve your community. Why not come and see for yourself?

Join us on Sunday for:

- Classes for kids and adults - 9am
- Worship at 10am Holy Communion is celebrated every Sunday
- Kids' chapel during the service
- Attended Nursery available
- Coffee and fellowship before and after the service
- Monthly potlucks after the service on the 2nd Sunday – great food and fellowship!

Additional regularly scheduled activities:

- Wednesday Bible Study – 11 am and 6:30pm
- Monthly Men's and Women's Breakfasts
- Choirs – voice and bells
- English as Second Language classes
- Quilting group and Knitting/Crochet group
- And more!

Please join us for Christmas Services!

- Mid-week Advent services at 11am and 7pm on Wednesdays, December 1, 8 & 15.
- Christmas Eve -
7 PM Family Service with Communion
10 PM Choral Service with Communion

Hope Lutheran Church, 4604 Ravensworth Rd, Annandale, VA 703-256-9040
www.hopeannandale.org



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5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield, VA
 (703) 321-0507 (church)
 (703) 409-1920 (pastor)

Sunday Services:

9:30 a.m. Classes for all ages
 10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Please join us for these community activities:

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 Ravensworth Golden Ravens
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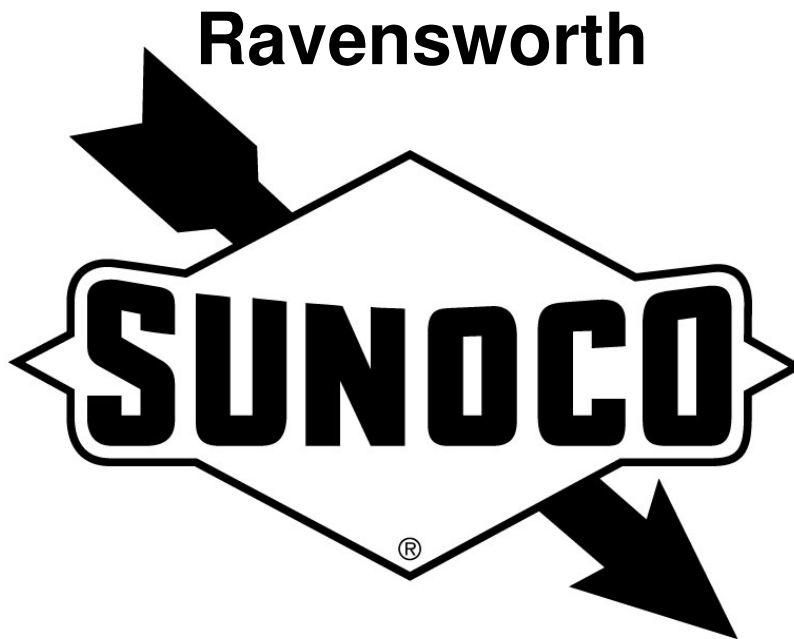
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