



MANDR HOUSE 1796-1925  
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

November 2011

**The Ravensworth *Farmer***

VOL. XLVII Issue 3

**FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

Dear Neighbors:

As I write this, it is the day before Halloween, and snow is falling in Ravensworth! Between the hurricane, the earthquake, and now snow in October, I am afraid for what the winter might bring. The Civic Association's Halloween Parade was a huge success. Based on the turnout, it appears that more and more families with children are moving into the neighborhood. Katharine Craig did her usual outstanding job of planning and orchestrating this annual parade. Thank you to Katherine and all those who volunteered their time for this event.

Our last Civic Association meeting in October was a debate between the three candidates running for the Braddock Supervisor's office. They took written questions from the audience and each answered the same question. It was a great turnout and I truly hope all of you voted in the November 8th election. Before I moved to Fairfax County I had no idea what a Supervisor was or what they did. Since I have been President, any time I get a call or complaint, the Supervisor's office is my first phone call to try and make things right. I have found them to be very responsive and easy to deal with.

Many of the questions posed in the debate dealt with taxes and the school system. As I listened, I realized that

*Con't Pg. 3*



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**Join us on Facebook  
(check the website for details):**

**[www.ravensworthfarm.org](http://www.ravensworthfarm.org)**

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	Jacqueline 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	Vacant	
Public Service (Streets & Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-209-2675
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	703-321-4948

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee		Marti Terry	703-209-4424
		Brenda Soares	703-321-7856
		Margaret Kinder	703-764-9576
Hospitality		Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063
		Ramona Michels	703-321-7664
New Neighbors		Vacant	
Cultural Committee	Vietnamese	Tam Nguyen	703-321-8338
	Spanish	Dinora Gonzalez	703-321-0160
	Korean	Seo Pani	703-321-8081
Directory	Coordinator	Stephen Beste	703-321-9110
	Advertising	Katherine Craig	703-321-3149
<i>Farmer</i>	Editor	Kathleen Powers	703-321-7523
	Preparation	Susan Deyampert	703-321-3150
	Printing, Flyers, Assembly	Laura Asiello	703-321-7840
	Distribution	Jacqueline Fix	703-321-3048
	Advertising	Katherine Craig	703-321-3149
Neighborhood Watch		Vacant	
PTA President, Ravensworth Elementary		Joey Stengell	703-272-8647
Pool President		Chris Bergen	703-451-0642
Green Thumb Garden Club		Doddie Cave	703-321-9773
		Nancy Jarvie	703-321-8319
Golden Ravens		Joan Crofford	703-321-7809

## Association Calendar 2011 - 2012

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT <i>Farmer</i>	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
November	2	2	4	9	19	
December	Nov. 30	Nov. 30	2	7	17	
January	4	4	6	11	21	26
February	1	1	3	10	25	
March	Feb. 29	Feb. 29	2	9	24	29
April	4	4	6	9	28	
May	2	2	4	11	26	31

**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*

everything is a matter of perspective. I moved here from New Jersey where the real estate taxes on a comparable home that you would find in Ravensworth Farm would be about \$12,000. The NJ sales tax is 6%, car insurance is through the roof, the school system isn't anything to brag about, and the State's financial outlook is dire.

Here in Virginia I live in one of the country's top rated school systems and my taxes are about a third of what I would pay back in Jersey. On the flip side, I can't get a decent pizza or bagel in Virginia, so maybe it all evens out in the end.

I hope you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving and you are able to be with your family and loved ones for the holiday.

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

## GREEN GARDEN CLUB

The Green Thumb Garden Club met on Wednesday, November 2 at the home of Laura Asiello. Joan Richards, a Master Gardener from Green Springs, spoke on "Fall Gardening". She shared several excellent handouts about cool-season crops, as well as preparing soil for winter.

Beginning in 2012 chemical nitrogen will not be readily available at garden supply shops. It has become so concentrated in runoff in our area.

Joan clarified the term organic as no chemicals having been used on the soil within 15-20 years. Market Masters for Fairfax County Farmer's Markets do visit vendor's farms if questions arise. All vendors must farm within a 150 mile radius of the county to participate in the markets.

Mrs. Richards also talked about the ease and fun of dry seed saving for home use. Green Springs will sponsor a seed exchange on Saturday, February 4, 2012.

We meet again on Wednesday, December 7. Please call 703-764-9576 if you wish to join us.



## GARDEN OF THE SEASON AWARDS

How lovely it was cruising the neighborhood and how difficult selecting our Gardens for Fall. Here are the results after hours of pondering and gnashing of teeth.

Congratulations to all. We encourage residents to walk by and enjoy these efforts as well as picking up ideas to incorporate in your yard.

**First Place:** 5313 Landgrave Lane, Marisa Fleck

**Second Place:** 5512 Ravenel Lane, Anson and Lisa Barney

**Third Place:** 5604 Inverchapel Road, Martin and Kay Perret

### Honorable Mention

8117 Adair Lane

7909 Hatteras Lane

5238 Inverchapel Road

5631 Inverchapel Road

5227 Kepler Lane

5311 Nutting Drive

5406 Nutting Drive

5313 Pillow Lane

5305 Queensberry Avenue

5616 Rathbone Place

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTE: Apologies go out to the Garden Club for not listing this in the October Farmer.**

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REALLY NEEDS YOU!

Would YOU be willing to coordinate a group of enthusiastic neighbors to make Ravensworth a safer place? The neighborhood watch program is in place, has volunteers and simply needs a coordinator. People are willing to help, but we need someone to pull it all together. You could do this together with one of your friends, too. Please, PLEASE call Marty Robinson if you could possibly help your community: 703-297-7255.



## GOLDEN RAVENS ARE CELEBRATING LIFE!

George Bernard Shaw concluded, "Youth is wasted on the young, and life is wasted on people." It seems that many people are too busy to really appreciate life until it is mostly gone. The untimely passing of Steve Jobs, founder of Apple, Inc. at age 56 recently reminds us that births come with funerals attached for everyone.

The Golden Ravens of Ravensworth gather monthly to be reminded that life is precious and should not be missed. They know the difference between human beings and human doings. When the doings are finished the beings remain. If you are one of our neighbors in this stage of life, please join our group – normally on the fourth Wednesday of each month for speakers, lunches, discussions and other ways of celebrating life.

Our next meeting is on November 16 - to avoid conflicts with Thanksgiving - at the Café IMA Japanese/Korean fusion restaurant in the University Mall at 11:30AM. Call Joan Crofford for more details or help with transportation at 703-321-7809.

## WANTED: EDITOR FOR THE FARMER

The current editor of the Farmer is retiring from both her regular job and the Farmer, too. Can you step in and fill this position? A small stipend is available. The editor:

- Collects data from community groups, clubs and committees
- Proofreads and edits community information
- Attends a monthly board meeting
- Writes short articles based on the meeting
- Sends a master file of information to the formatter
- Develops the annual schedule for formatting, printing and delivery of the Farmer
- Works with RFCA Board to produce annual schedule of events for community
- Answers questions by email and phone regarding Farmer information

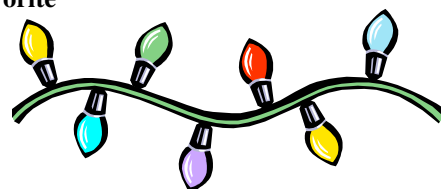


If interested, please contact Marty at 703-297-7255 or Kathleen at 703-321-7523.

## SIGHTS & LIGHTS OF THE SEASON

Greetings fellow residents! With only a few days left until Thanksgiving, time is near to untangle your strings of lights, test the bulbs and make sure that all the holiday decorations, which were carefully stored last year, are in top-notch shape for another fabulous Ravensworth Holiday Display! This year's judging will take place on Sunday, December 19th. Remember that the categories of judging will be:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| * <b>Best Overall</b>     | * <b>Most Original</b>  |
| * <b>Best Religious</b>   | * <b>Kid's Favorite</b> |
| * <b>Best Door/Window</b> |                         |



**DUE TO THE DELIVERY SCHEDULE OF THE FARMER, PLEASE NOTE  
THESE DECEMBER ACTIVITIES ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!**

**Saturday, December 10 & Sunday, December 11**

**Take a Walk Through Bethlehem**

**4:00—8:00PM, Parkwood Baptist Church**

Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA across from the King's Park Shopping Center. Stroll Back in Time... Come and revisit a busy street in Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. This FREE interactive program has something for everyone. It features townspeople working at their trade and sharing their goods with visitors -- and ends with the stable where you will find a Live Nativity where children can pet the animals. Upstairs you will be welcomed with Christmas Carols, refreshments and gifts for the children. Visit our website at [www.parkwood.org](http://www.parkwood.org) for more information. Dates: December 10th & 11th from 4:00PM to 8:00PM.

**Sunday, December 18**

**Pet Pictures with Santa**

**4:30 - 5:30 pm, Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285**

(All ages) Make your pet the star of the season! Bring your dog, cat or other furry friend to Lake Accotink Park for a visit with "Santa Claws." Bring your camera to create a special memory that you can share. Want to get in the picture too? No problem, we'll snap the picture for you and then hand you back your camera. Cost is \$5 per pet. Advance payment and registration preferred. Refunds only if event is cancelled. Pets must be leashed and well-socialized.

**Saturday, December 10**

**Holiday Craft Sampler (6-10 years old)**

**10AM, Lake Accotink Park, 703-569-0285**

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.

**COYOTES ARE SPREADING IN FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS**

The following article was written by Ravensworth Resident, Elissa Myers and features her dog, Indi:

If you walk your dog in the woods of Fairfax County, you will want to be aware that along with the birds and the squirrels and the deer and the human hunters there are *Canis latrans* – coyotes!

Springfield Black Lab, Indi, was walking in the Lake Accotink woods yesterday when he came upon the remains of a deer. "It was disturbing, to say the least," Indi's owner said. "It was clearly a fresh kill – what was left of the poor thing was still warm," she said.

Was the deer killed as a part of the Fairfax County Deer Management Program?

The question was put to Victoria Monroe, Wildlife Biologist with the Fairfax County Parks Department Animal Service Division.

"No," responded Victoria. "All deer (6) harvested as part of the Archery Program at Lake Accotink Park are accounted for at this site. Judging by the smaller size of the deer (a yearling) and damage to the carcass, it appears one -or more - of our (healthy) coyotes in the area successfully hunted this animal. Eastern coyotes (*Canis latrans*) are currently our only mid-sized natural predator of white-tailed deer in this region. Coyotes hunt in small family groups and are able to easily take down younger deer and fawns. They are generally unable to hunt fully mature does and bucks," she said.

*Con't Pg. 7*

*Con't from Pg. 6*

"I have been getting a lot of confirmed coyote sightings in that area, which I think is amazing. I had not realized the relative prevalence of coyotes so far east of the Mississippi River. Their family groups, social structure and vocalizations are amazing...we are truly blessed with such a diverse array of wildlife here."

And Fairfax County is blessed by having wonderful Victoria Monroe doing a great job of maintaining the delicate balance between the human population and our rich wildlife.

According to National Geographic, "Modern coyotes have displayed their cleverness by adapting to the changing American landscape. These members of the dog family once lived primarily in open prairies and deserts, but now roam the continent's forests and mountains. They have even colonized cities like Los Angeles, and are now found over most of North America. Coyote populations are likely at an all-time high."

Coyotes "will eat almost anything. They hunt rabbits, rodents, fish, frogs, and even deer. They also happily dine on insects, snakes, fruit, grass, and carrion. Because they sometimes kill lambs, calves, or other livestock, as well as pets, many ranchers and farmers regard them as destructive pests," continues the National Geographic writer. "Coyotes are formidable in the field where they enjoy keen vision and a strong sense of smell. They can run up to 40 miles an hour. In the fall and winter, they form packs for more effective hunting."

The web site of Fairfax City reports that Coyotes were first sighted around "the tank farm and Daniels Run, in 2001. They have gradually migrated and are now being reported throughout the entire City."

"They are generally non-confrontational and can easily be scared off by yelling or making other loud noises," but small dogs and cats should not be left outdoors, unattended, the site cautions.

Vicki Monroe also offers this advice:

- As with all wildlife, coyotes should not be approached, touched, baited or fed. It is important to keep local wildlife "wild".
- Do not feed your pets outdoors. If you do, bring the food bowl in at night to reduce the likelihood of wildlife (primarily foxes and raccoons) being attracted to the food at night.
- Keep your dogs on a leash when you go for walks off private property.
- It is important to "assert" your presence if you see one. Do not run. Make yourself appear larger than you are (puff up), wave your arms, and make noise.

Source: Elissa Myers, "Fairfax Pet-Friendly Places", Examiner, November 4, 2011



**2012 RFCA ANNUAL PROPOSED BUDGET**

Fiscal Year Oct 1 - Sep 30

**Annual Operations****Annual Operating Revenue**

	<u>11 Actual</u>	<u>Proposed 12 Budget</u>
Membership	5,394	5,500
Advertising - Directory	2,270	2,170
Advertising - Farmer	3,940	3,715
Interest on Savings	294	100
<i>Withdrawal from (Contribution to) Savings</i>		
<b>Total Annual Operating Revenue</b>	<b>11,898</b>	<b>11,485</b>

**Annual Operating Expenses**

Farmer		
Printing	1,416	1,420
Distribution	1,630	1,350
Typing and Formatting	500	900
	<u>3,546</u>	<u>3,670</u>
Directory		
Printing	2,826	2,825
Block Captain/Distribution	0	100
	<u>2,826</u>	<u>2,925</u>
Hospitality		
New Neighbor Welcome	150	150
Get Well/Hospitalizations	101	125
	<u>251</u>	<u>275</u>
Braddock Road Maintenance		
East of Queensberry	131	500
West of Queensberry		500
Entranceways	324	300
	<u>455</u>	<u>1,300</u>
Community Services & Events		
Neighborhood Picnic	417	250
Halloween Party	600	800
Spring Hay Ride	715	715
Ravensworth Elementary	400	300
	<u>2,132</u>	<u>2,065</u>
Contingencies		350
Tree Project	156	
RFNW Supplies		
	<u>156</u>	<u>350</u>

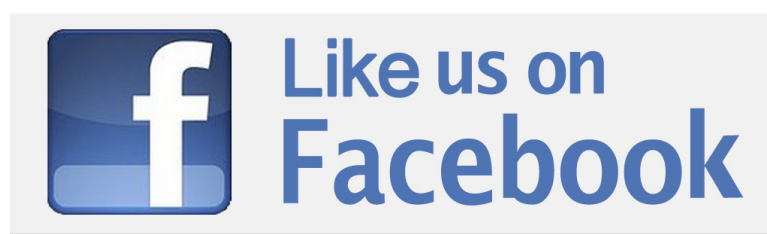


**2012 RFCA ANNUAL PROPOSED BUDGET (CON'T)**

	<b>11 Actual</b>	<b>Proposed 12 Budget</b>
Administrative Expenses	251	300
Website / e-Blasts	243	250
Annandale Volunteer Fire Department	200	200
Holiday Decorations	125	150
<b>Total Annual Operating Expense</b>	<b>10,185</b>	<b>11,485</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Annual Revenue minus Expenses</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>0</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Non-Recurring/Capital Expenditures - from Savings</b>		
Legal		300
Tree Program		200
Sign Upgrade	143	750
Community Website		7,000
<b>Total Non-Recurring/Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>8,250</b>
<hr/>		
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Savings Balance</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>(8,250)</b>

**RAVENSWORTH FACEBOOK PAGE— IT'S AMAZING!**

Join Facebook just to keep in touch with community events, problems, and activities. This is a very active website—full of interesting information, photos, advice, contractor recommendations, “freebies,” lost pet information and a lot more! This website has become an essential link in our community’s communication system. Recently posted were photographs of snakes found in Ravensworth and some fascinating photos of the mushrooms and fungi sprouting up after all the rains. Even if you not into “social networking,” it is worth getting a Facebook account just to keep in touch with our community. Go to: <http://www.facebook.com> and search “Ravensworth Farm.”



**LESSONS LEARNED DURING THE WINTER**

I would like to encourage all homeowners and renters to own at least one shovel, preferably a snow shovel. Some people tried to remove snow in previous years with a dustpan.

Our children need to participate and shovel out neighbors in need, too. This is a great lesson in civic responsibility.

Shovel early in the day to take advantage of the sun to melt and dry the pavement.

Shovel often during a snow storm to keep up. It is much easier to move 1-2 inches of snow than 4-6 or more. We shoveled well into the night during big snowfalls. In the morning we only had 6 more inches to remove.

VDOT does not treat our local streets. Eco-friendly fireplace ash helps to soften packed snow and ice. Potash is a normal soil component. But you need to remember to remove shoes when entering the house to keep the ash dirt from coming inside.



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in the *Farmer* at no cost to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Classified ads must be mailed 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.

**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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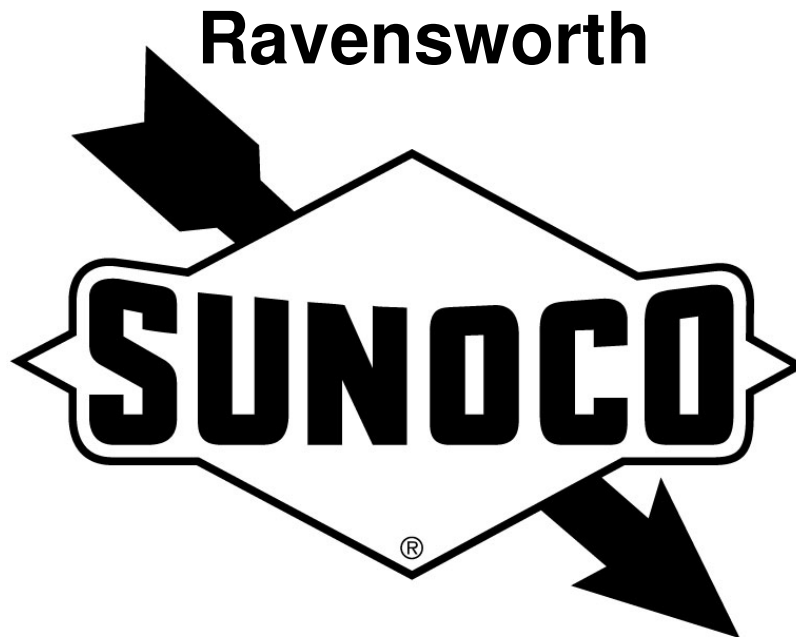
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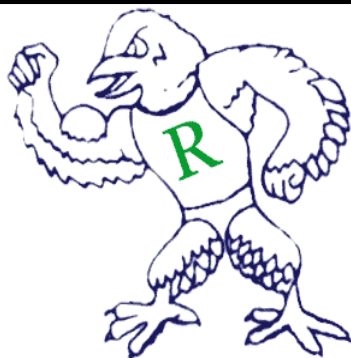
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BBQ Grills  
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Ping Pong Table  
Tennis Courts

Join or renew online at  
**[www.ravensworthpool.com](http://www.ravensworthpool.com)**

**Swim and Dive Team** registration  
information located on line.

### **Summer Employment Opportunities**

Go to the website for more information regarding the following positions: Manager, Life Guard, Snack bar.

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## **Come, and see!**

Hope Lutheran Church is an inclusive and welcoming congregation, offering a variety of ways to become involved and 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 on the 2nd Sunday – great food and fellowship!

**Hope Lutheran Church, 4604 Ravensworth Rd, Annandale, VA 703-256-9040  
[www.hopeannandale.org](http://www.hopeannandale.org)**



# Solutions

*Serving the Northern Virginia area since 2001*

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### **Interior Remodeling**

- Bathrooms
- Basements
- Kitchens
- Drywall Repair and Painting
- ADA Compliance
- And more!

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- Roofing
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**Busy Buddies Provides:**

- Trusted resources
- Expert, practical moving advice
- An organized simplified move
- Start to finish move coordination
- Unpacking / settling new home
- Support and guidance
- Hands on physical labor
- Floor plan arrangement
- Chaos-free downsizing

**You Reduce:**

- Stress, time, effort and novice frustrations
- Lost productivity and vacation days
- Disruption of family routine

**Unpacking and Settling Service:**

We'll get your new home up and running in a day (Make bed, hang shower curtain, put soup away).

**Estate dispersal / house clearing service.**

Decide what you want, we'll do the rest.

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