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

February 2014

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

VOL. XLVIV Issue 5

**REAL ESTATE & MORTGAGE TRENDS  
ON THE FARM FOR 2014**

As this Farmer goes to press, there are two homes listed for sale in Ravensworth Farm. There were five listed last month. How does that compare to previous years? Who is buying and selling? What are the trends? Ellen Ing, a Realtor with RE/MAX Allegiance in Burke, along with Mike Stein, a Certified Mortgage Planning Specialist and Senior Loan Officer with McLean Mortgage, will be on hand for a local market update and trends as well as discussion on the new lending guidelines that will impact home buyers and refinances now that we are in 2014. They look forward to meeting with you and answering any questions you may have. Come to the **Wednesday, January 29** Civic Association meeting at Ravensworth Elementary.

**DOGS: LOVE THEM? LEASH THEM.**

After the death of a loose beagle puppy on Queensberry Avenue on December 20, it seems a reminder of various dog ordinances and laws is appropriate.



Con't Pg. 3

**The Farmer is ONLINE**

If you already lined the birdcage with The Farmer and now want information from it, you can always go online to [www.ravensworthfarm.org](http://www.ravensworthfarm.org) and read the digital edition.

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**Wednesday Meeting—January 29th**  
The General Meeting of the Ravensworth Farm Community Association will be WEDNESDAY, January 29. The school will be closed January 30 and 31 for teachers' meetings so it was not available for the usual Thursday meeting.

Article 1, 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	Kevin Joyce	703-587-7989	prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1st Vice President	VACANT		
2nd Vice President	Dean Fix	703-321-3048	vp2@ravensworthfarm.org
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151	recsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Corresponding Secretary	Stephanie Hammond	703-321-0546	
Treasurer	Richmon Tun	703-321-1404	treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org

### STANDING COMMITTEES

Legislative & County Affairs	Vacant		
Public Service (Streets / Sidewalks)	Tom Terry	703-209-2675	rfnw@ravensworthfarm.org
Schools & Education	Jill Mowbray Maria Dastur	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.com mariacdastur@gmail.com
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 Brenda Soares Margaret Kinder	703-209-4424 703-321-7856 703-764-9576	
Hospitality	Jacqueline Fix Ruth Hartman	703-321-3048 703-321-8063	hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
New Neighbors	Jill Mowbray	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.com
Cultural Committee			
Spanish	Dinora Gonzalez	703-321-0160	
Korean	Seo Pani	703-321-8081	
Directory	Coordinator Advertising	Stephen Beste Katherine Craig	703-321-9110 703-321-3149
<b>Farmer</b>	Editor Preparation Printing, Flyers, Assembly Distribution Advertising	Sara Ortiz Susan Deyampert Laura Asiello Jacqueline Fix Katherine Craig	703-321-8757 703-321-3150 703-321-7840 703-321-3048 703-321-3149
			rfcfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org jfasiiello@aol.com hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
Neighborhood Watch	Tom Terry	703-209-2675	rfnw@ravensworthfarm.org
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Anita Bhatnagar	703-942-6806	president@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Rob Hannam	703-321-7398	
Green Thumb Garden Club	Doddie Cave Nancy Jarvie	703-321-9773 703-321-8319	
Golden Ravens	Joan Crofford	703-321-7809	

## Association Calendar 2013 - 2014

MONTH	BOARD MEETING	<i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE	FLYER DEADLINE	PRINT <i>Farmer</i>	DELIVERY	ASSOC. MEETING
January	2	2	3	9	25	29 (Wed.)
February	5	5	7	13	Mar. 1	
March	5	5	7	12	22	27
April	2	2	4	9	26	
May	Apr. 30	Apr. 30	2	7	17	22

**General and Board meetings will be held at Ravensworth Elementary School. Meetings are canceled in the event of Fairfax County Public Schools' early closing or school cancellation. Meetings are at 7:30pm unless otherwise announced.**

*Con't from Pg. 1*

### Unrestricted Dogs Prohibited in Fairfax County (Leash Law)

Unrestricted means not under the control of the owner or his agent either by leash, cord, chain, or primary enclosure when off the property or premises of the owner or custodian. An electronic device does not qualify as a leash, cord or chain.

- (a) No dog shall run unrestricted. Any owner of a dog found unrestricted in the County is in violation of this Section. (b) Any dog found unrestricted in violation of subsection (a) shall be impounded, unless the dog's owner can be immediately located, then that owner shall be allowed to have custody of the animal, but shall be subject to issuance of a summons for violation of this Section.



### Animal Incident Reporting

Call Animal Control seven days a week; 6 a.m.- midnight at 703-691-2131 to report an incident involving: enforcement of county codes and state laws that pertain to domestic and wild animals (ex: leash laws); animal cruelty; dog attacks or bites to humans and companion animals; emergencies involving sick or seriously injured domestic animals, including potential human exposure to the rabies virus; and stray dogs in streets and other public areas.

Call the Fairfax County Police non-emergency dispatch number at 703-691-2131 to report dog bites, animal cruelty or neglect, sick or injured wildlife, and human exposure/encounters with potentially rabid wildlife.

Having repeated problems with a neighbor's pet coming onto your property? Download the trespass letter template at [fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/pdf/animal-trespass-letter.pdf](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/pdf/animal-trespass-letter.pdf), tailor it your circumstances and send a copy to: Fairfax County Police Department, Attn: Animal Services Division, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, Va. 22030.

*Con't Pg. 4*

*Con't from Pg. 3*

### **Dog Licenses Due by January 31**

All dogs over the age of four months residing in Fairfax County are required to be licensed. The cost of the license is \$10 in person or by mail and \$10.65 online. Licenses must be renewed every year by January 31. In order to purchase a dog license, a valid rabies certificate must be provided. A dog is required to wear this license tag whenever off the owner's property. Cats do not require licenses in Fairfax County but need to be kept up-to-date on rabies vaccinations. For questions regarding license fees, call 703-222-8234. You must produce a valid certificate of rabies vaccination or current dog license receipt upon demand by any animal control officer or Police Officer or you will receive a court summons.

### **Animals Causing Unsanitary Conditions (Pooper Scooper)**

It is unlawful for the owner of any animal to keep the animal in such a manner as to cause unsanitary conditions. The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta (poop) deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public places. *Editor's Note: Please don't deposit your dog's poop in someone else's trash can even if it is at the curb. If they don't put out their trash can every time, the smell can become quite strong.*

### **IDs and Lost and Found Pets**

Don't lose your pet! Most people think it'll never happen to them, but more than 6 million family pets are lost and enter animal shelters across the U.S. each year. Most of these pets are never reunited with their owners. Don't let this happen to you or your pet. 1) Arm your pet with a personal ID tag, a rabies tag (required by law), and a license tag (required by law). 2) Consider a microchip, tattoo or other device that will help shelters identify and return lost pets. Even writing your phone number in permanent marker on your dog's collar could help, should the dog lose its tags.

*Con't Pg. 5*



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*Con't from Pg. 4*

Tagging dogs and cats is a simple, easy, and important task. Even responsible pet owners may experience unexpected circumstances that cause pets to accidentally stray, get lost or injured. Don't take chances; ID them today. You can report lost and found pets online at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/lost-found-animal-report.htm>

### **Adoptable Animals**

Information about animals available for adoption from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is available on PetHarbor.com. The site is updated hourly. Adoption costs approximately \$175.

### **Dog Parks for Well-mannered Dogs**

The Fairfax County Park Authority has always welcomed leashed dogs in all of its parks. Now, for owners of well-mannered canines who enjoy a good run or a friendly romp, there's the additional option of dog parks - fenced areas where unleashed dogs can have free play. At present, there are seven established dog parks. Additional off-leash dog areas are in the planning stage.

All the dog parks are public/private partnerships, developed in cooperation with sponsoring organizations of pet owners. The sponsors are the agency's liaison between users and local residents, Animal Control and the Police Department. They monitor and clean up the facilities, publicize dog park rules and regulations, and report maintenance needs to the Park Authority.

Users of off-leash dog areas do so at their own risk. Neither Fairfax County nor the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in the off-leash area. The hours of operation of all off-leash dog areas are dawn to dusk, unless posted otherwise.

### **Controlling Dangerous And Vicious Dogs**

1. If a canine or canine crossbreed previously found by the court to be a dangerous dog attacks and injures or kills a cat or dog that is a companion animal belonging to another person, and that attack is a separate and distinct incident from the incident that led to the finding, then the owner or custodian of the dangerous dog is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.
2. If a canine or canine crossbreed previously found by the court to be a dangerous dog bites or attacks and injures a human being and that bite or attack is a separate and distinct incident from the incident that led to the finding, then the owner or custodian of the dangerous dog is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 of this section shall not apply to any animal that, at the time of the acts complained of, was responding to pain or injury or was protecting itself, its kennel, its offspring, a person, or its owner's or custodian's property, or when the animal is a police dog that is engaged in the performance of its duties at the time of the attack.

3. If the owner of any canine or canine crossbreed previously found by the court to be a dangerous dog willfully fails to comply with the requirements imposed as a result of the finding that the animal is a dangerous dog, then that owner is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

## **GARDEN CLUB**

The December Garden Club meeting was at the home of Doddie Cave for a holiday tea and gift exchange. The Garden Club meets the first Wednesday of each month from September to June. We welcome new members. If you're interested, call Barbara Adams at 703-321-8980. The next meeting will be February 5 at the home of Nancy Jarvie. The subject will be Spring Pruning. Why not join us?!

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this issue of the Farmer finds everybody keeping warm. This is my favorite time of the year to do all those indoor projects I put off when it was warm and too busy running around. It's also nice not to have to mow the lawn or worry about watering the garden.

It's also still that time of year when our block captains are knocking on doors renewing memberships in the Civic Association and handing out 2014 directories. If you haven't seen your block captain and/or don't know who they are there is a mail-in option. We have a significant number of residents who prefer to prepay and mail their \$10 in. That way you don't have to be home when the block captains stop by and they'll leave the updated directory at the door. I'm also a block captain and inevitably have trouble reaching at least 1-2 residents every year. If you'd like to mail your dues in as opposed to waiting for the block captains please mail them to the board's address at: Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1020 Springfield, Virginia 22151-1020 with a \$10.00 check made payable to Ravensworth Farm Civic Association.

I finally have an update on the board's RFP for the 495 Express Lanes Community Grant Program. The original deadline was June 30 but due to some proposals requiring changes and additional information I pushed it to September 30. Unfortunately some of those proposals never made it in on time or were withdrawn. I therefore postponed the submission date one last time to December 31. In the end only one proposal ended in a qualifying format. This proposal came from Bob and Karole Nielsen. In 2007 a Boy Scout in Troop 991 erected pet waste stands around the lake with the help of fellow scouts and Ravensworth Farm residents for his Eagle project. The original supply of bags ran out and have since been purchased using donated funds (Fairfax County parks do not fund this). Ravensworth Farm volunteers continue to resupply the stands. Unfortunately, funding shrank to a trickle so they proposed using the grant for a 5 year supply along with some needed stand repairs. Hopefully by the time this issue reaches your doorstep I'll have received a response from the administrators of the grant program so stay tuned. Thanks Bob and Karole!

Lastly, I'd like to provide an update on the RSU debate that caused such an uproar in communities across the county. As you know I've been following this issue closely and trying my best to keep the community informed. Fortunately I have good news to share but the final amendment has not yet been settled. This excerpt comes from our Braddock District Supervisor John Cook:

“At its November 20 meeting, the Planning Commission Subcommittee studying this proposal received further guidance from the Board of Supervisors which endorsed an earlier recommendation of Commissioner Tim Sergeant to further limit where these units could be placed. The new draft would not allow RSU's in low-density residential areas. The Board also recommended the elimination of an option which would allow conversion of a single family detached residence into RSUs. Therefore, the ongoing review of the proposal will focus locating RSUs in the upper R-Districts, as well as commercial, industrial, and mixed-use planned development districts. The Board of Supervisors noted that while there is support for the RSU concept overall, there is deep-seated opposition to allowing them as a use in lower density residential districts or single family neighborhoods.”

I hope you all have a wonderful February and I look forward to seeing you at our next general membership meeting.

Kevin Joyce, President—[prez@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:prez@ravensworthfarm.org)

## **ADD TO YOUR BUCKET LIST - GOLDEN RAVENS**

You must know what a bucket list is if you attend the movies. So, don't forget one item that could make a big difference in life during your retirement. The Golden Ravens are senior neighbors in Ravensworth Farm who gather together monthly for lunch to share what is happening and maybe what is needed to happen. Sometimes it helps just to have someone around when you might need them. You never know. So mark the dates on your new calendar for the fourth Wednesday and call Joan Crofford for the meeting details or help with transportation: 703-321-7809.

## **HOLIDAY LIGHT WINNERS**

Best Overall – 5633 Inverchapel Road  
 Best Religious – 7913 Hatteras Lane  
 Kid's Choice – 5226 Kepler Lane  
 Best Door/Window – 5674 Ravenel Lane

### Honorable Mentions:

8111 Bullock Lane  
 8127 Bullock Lane  
 8135 Drayton Lane  
 5421 Inverchapel Road  
 5514 Inverchapel Road  
 5301 Landgrave Lane  
 5311 Moultrie Road  
 5412 Moultrie Road



## **ELECTRIC SUNDAYS**

Fairfax County residents can recycle televisions, computers and peripheral devices – including keyboards, speakers, printers, external drives and other such materials – and unbroken fluorescent light bulbs and tubes on Electric Sundays. There is No Charge for Fairfax County residents to participate in Electric Sunday; however, you may be required to show proof of residency.

*All electronics recycling events are held from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.*



- Feb. 23: I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax 22030
- March 23: I-95 Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton 22079

Additional electronics recycling information to follow once details become available. For additional information, please contact us at 703-324-5230.

## **LAST CHANCE TO JOIN THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

If you aren't a member, contact Elissa Myers to become a member - 703-321-7590 or [elissa@elissamyers.com](mailto:elissa@elissamyers.com) - or answer the door when your Block Captain comes knocking. Block Captains have until January 31 to complete their work. It would be great to welcome every one of our 858 households into the Civic Association!



**NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN FOR SCHOOL DROP-OFF/PICK-UP**

by Roxanne Salata, Principal, Ravensworth Elementary School

Ravensworth staff has been working closely with the Fairfax County Police Department and the Ravensworth Farms Association to eliminate traffic issues during our Kiss & Ride times. At the recommendation of the Fairfax County Police Department, starting January 6, a new traffic pattern will be implemented for drop-off and pickup of students.



Please approach Gosport Ln. from Queensberry or Inverchapel Dr. and proceed on Nutting Dr. from the bus lane end of school to the Kiss & Ride entrance, drive through Kiss & Ride, and exit only to the right onto Nutting Drive. We hope to quicken your drop-off & pickup times and decrease the inconveniences to our neighbors on Nutting Drive.

**SPANISH IMMERSION LOTTERY FOR CURRENT KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS**

by Roxanne Salata, Principal, Ravensworth Elementary School

Online registration period for the first grade Spanish immersion programs is open through February 14. You may visit <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml> for more information about Spanish Immersion and the registration/lottery process. Please understand that Ravensworth Elementary does not operate the registration system for First Grade Immersion. This is a Central Office process. You may also call the World Languages Team at 571-423-4602. Ravensworth will hold an informational meeting on January 14, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. *Editors Note: In-boundary students for Ravensworth Elementary are generally automatically accepted to the Spanish immersion program if they apply. Out-of-boundary students are accepted through the lottery after application.*

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## EVENTS

Is there an event that should be here? Email [rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org)

- \*\*Jan. 29 (Wednesday) - 7:30pm - **Ravensworth Farm Community Association General Meeting** - Real Estate Trends in Our Community; follow-up discussion of RSUs - Ravensworth Elementary School
- Jan. 30-31 - **No School** - Teacher Workdays/Staff Development
- Feb. 17 - **No School** - Presidents' Day holiday
- Feb. 23 - **Electric Sunday** - I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Rd, Fairfax 22030
- March 15 - **Community Clean-Up Day** (date subject to confirmation by the County)
- March 23 - **Electric Sunday** - I-95 Complex, 9850 Furnace Rd, Lorton 22079
- \*\*Mar. 27 - 7:30pm - **Ravensworth Farm Community Association General Meeting** - Ravensworth Elementary
- April 7 - **No School** - Teacher Work Day
- April 11-13 - **Easter Pageant** - Immanuel Bible Church, Backlick & Braddock, evenings
- April 14-18 - **No School** - Spring Break
- April 20 - **Easter Sunday**
- May 3 - **Community Yard Sale** - Ravensworth Farm Pool
- May 10 - rain date - **Community Yard Sale rain date**
- \*\*May 22 - 7:30pm - **Ravensworth Farm Community Association General Meeting** - Ravensworth Elementary



**WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS**

New folks move in all the time. If you have new neighbors, tell Jill Mowbray. If you are a new neighbor- welcome! Please let Jill know you have arrived so that one of her New Neighbor Committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Jill Mowbray (703-865-8368, [bjm820@hotmail.com](mailto:bjm820@hotmail.com)).



**CONDOLENCES & CONGRATULATIONS**

**Condolences** to Rachel and the extended family of Michael Tubbs, a resident of Oldcastle Lane. Mr. Tubbs died December 19, 2013 of a heart attack at the age of 50. He is the father of Rachel Tubbs who attends Lake Braddock.

**Congratulations** to Bethany and Eugene Heim of Inverchapel Road on the November arrival of their baby.

**REMINDER: THE RAVENSWORTH FARMER...**

... may not be delivered to homes that compromise the safety of the scout troop that delivers it. This includes homes that may have loose or unfriendly pets, hazardous walkways, or other impediments to safe delivery by the scouts. The Farmer is always available for viewing one week after home delivery on the Ravensworth Farm web site, <http://www.ravensworthfarm.org>.



CLASSIFIED ADS may be placed in The *Farmer* at no cost to Ravensworth Farm residents. Classified ads may be placed by sending them to [rfcfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcfarmer@ravensworthfarm.org) or to PO Box 1020, Springfield, VA 22151. The classified ad section is a service to Ravensworth residents and is not intended for business or commercial use. Ads for house sales, commercial services, etc. will be run in this section once. If you wish to repeat your ad, you will need to purchase advertising in The *Farmer*.

<b>FREE</b>	Free to anyone who needs the following: Dolby DVD Player, Sony VHS Player; Garmin GPS Navigator. Call Julie at (703) 321 0672.
<b>HELP DC HOMELESS</b>	Usable clothing and shoes, blankets, canned foods, etc., collected by a charitable foundation for the winter needs of homeless folks in D.C. Call for free pickups 703703-321 -9268. For details, visit <a href="http://www.Kassirfoundation.org">www.Kassirfoundation.org</a> .
<b>WANTED</b>	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 <b>ONLY</b> on Saturday mornings.

## **'CRITICAL WORK' NEEDED TO SAVE U.S. CAPITOL DOME**

by Michelle Peirano, December 20, 2013, Annandale.Patch.com

A \$59.5 million project to repair more than 1,000 cracks in the Capitol Dome will require the landmark to be covered by scaffolding for about two years.

The project began in November after two construction companies were awarded the work. For the next few months, the project will still be in its planning stages, and the dome will remain uncovered. But building for the scaffolding will likely start in the spring.

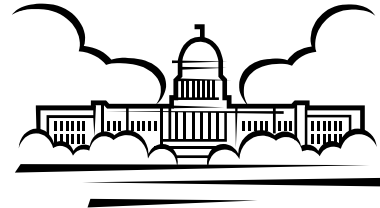
According to the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), once the scaffolding design is finalized, the art and statues inside the dome will be covered, tours to the top of the dome will stop, and a donut-shaped white canopy will cover The Apotheosis of Washington, a mural portraying the first president rising to heaven, an October AOC release said.

Then construction will begin, starting with scaffolding installation from the bottom of the dome up to the base of the Statue of Freedom, which will remain uncovered at the top.

The dome has not been repaired since 1960 and “under the paint, age and weather have taken its toll,” said Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers in October.

“As stewards of the Capitol for the Congress and the American people, we must conduct this critical work to save the dome,” he said.

Most of the construction will happen during nights and weekends.



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**www.cofchrist-cbmc.org**

## **JANUARY IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER BLOOD DONOR MONTH**

University of Florida, Shands Healthcare, 1 Jan 2014

Ever stop to think about your community blood supply? Maybe you should, because your community blood supply is pulsing all around you. It's in local hospitals, on blood bank shelves, and in delivery vehicles on the road next to you. And perhaps your community's blood supply is even inside you right now.

January is National Blood Donor Month, so this is a good time to stop and think about contributing to your community as a blood donor.

If you already donate, you know the rules. You have to be seventeen years old. You need to be in generally good health, and weigh one hundred and ten pounds or more. And you need to show identification.

If you meet these minimum standards, you can probably give and the process is simple. Before you donate, you answer questions about your history to determine whether it's safe for you to give and for someone to receive your blood. The blood center checks your iron, temperature, pulse and blood pressure. Again, this is to make sure that giving blood is safe for you.

The actual donation takes only about ten minutes and is pretty comfortable. After you give, you'll relax before returning to normal activities. It's smart to make sure you've eaten before you give, and also that you're well-hydrated.

Giving blood, like many things, can go better with a friend. So you may want to ask a friend or family member to come and give with you. Plus it's always better to enjoy post-donation juice and cookies with someone else.

To donate close to home, you can donate at Inova Blood Donor Services; 3289 Woodburn Rd, Annandale; Tel: (703) 698-3885 or American Red Cross; Fairfax Donor Center; 2720 Prosperity Ave, Ste 200, Fairfax. You can make a difference today as a blood donor. Don't just think about it... give it a try!

## **FAA CHOOSES VIRGINIA AS ONE OF SIX STATES TO TEST DRONES**

by Mary Ann Barton, Annandale.Patch.com, January 01, 2014

The Federal Aviation Administration announced six states on Monday that will develop test sites for drones, and Virginia is one of them.

Virginia — along with Alaska, Nevada, New York, North Dakota and Texas -- will host the research sites, providing diverse climates, geography and air traffic environments, FAA Administrator Michael Huerta said. Virginia Tech will head the effort in Virginia.



The regional research effort is to help find the safest and most effective ways to incorporate Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), often called drones, into the existing airspace.

Virginia Tech's proposal, one of six from across the country selected by the FAA, includes a cooperative agreement to work with research institutions and facilities across Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey.

"We want to congratulate Virginia Tech and its partners for this success. Virginia's selection provides an opportunity for the mid-Atlantic region to become a major hub for UAS research and testing, leveraging the growing private sector interest in UAS as well as incorporating military and NASA assets across our region. That's why we have long supported Virginia's selection, and have worked to highlight the strengths of a Virginia-Maryland-New Jersey partnership with the FAA," Sens. Warner and Kaine said.

*Con't Pg. 15*

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*Con't from Pg. 13*

“We hope this FAA research and testing also helps sort-out the legitimate public concerns about privacy and air safety as we move toward a safe and responsible integration of unmanned aircraft.”

Although they're now mainly used by the military, businesses, farmers, government entities and others hope to use drones in the future. Universities across the country are starting programs to study them.

The FAA does not allow their commercial use. It is working to create guidelines by 2016.

Projections are that 7,500 commercial drones could be in the skies within the decade, according to aviation experts.

### **FCPS TO HOLD FIRST-EVER STEM-H FAIR IN FEBRUARY**

By Jennifer van der Kleut, December 22, 2013, Annandale Patch

Expanding on its usual annual engineering fair, the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) district announced this week that it will hold its first ever 'STEM-H' fair in February.

STEM-H is short for "Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Health and Medical Sciences." The fair will aim to present Fairfax County students with insight into STEM-H programs in college and tips for admission, as well as highlight potential future career paths, explained Cara Kirby, a career experience specialist for the school district.

"This year we decided to include health occupations as well due to the constant demand and ever-changing career opportunities in the healthcare industry," Kirby said. Kirby said the event will feature representatives from educational institutions and business organizations within the STEM-H arena, who will make themselves available to talk with students.

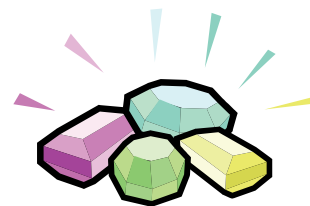
There will also be breakout sessions in the afternoon focusing on topics such as financial aid, security clearances, and extracurricular activities in STEM-H subjects that students may participate in while in high school.

Kirby said colleges, businesses, industries and other organizations that educate for, do business in, or support the STEM-H fields are encouraged to contact FCPS.

The STEM-H Expo is planned for Saturday, Feb. 22 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Chantilly High School. Information about registration and sessions will be publicized in late January. For more information contact Cara Kirby at 571-423-4502 or cckirby@fcps.edu.

### **"GEM" REVIEWS**

The Ravensworth Farm Community Association board wants to encourage neighbors to share great ideas with neighbors. Whether it's an eatery, theater, tool, park, repair place, preschool, or builder, if you've found a "gem"...please share. Send reviews to [rfcafarm@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rfcafarm@ravensworthfarm.org). Thanks for sharing!





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