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

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The Ravensworth **F**armer

Issue 3

**PROTECT OUR STREAM VALLEY  
PARKS WITH PROPER YARD WASTE  
DISPOSAL**

*Editor's Note: The author, Tami Sheaffer, was one of the speakers at the October 17 Civic Association meeting. Jason Remer, Jeff McKay, and James Walkinshaw also spoke during the candidates' forum portion of that meeting.*

Non-native invasive plants are exotic weeds that threaten our parks by crowding out native plants and disrupting ecosystems. They spread quickly and are difficult to remove once established. Invasive vines such as English Ivy, Mile-a-Minute, and Kudzu grow to cover anything in their path and even kill trees, while Japanese Stiltgrass takes over forest floors and suburban lawns. Significant county resources and thousands of volunteer hours are spent every year combating invasive plants in our parks.

Some county residents accidentally spread invasive plants and other weeds by dumping yard waste in neighboring forests. Dumped yard waste can smother native plants and spread invasive plants, degrading our parks and forests. Invasive plants may grow from seeds, berries, or even pieces of roots in yard waste, so improper disposal of yard waste can spread invasive plants to new areas.

*Con't Pg. 3*

**HUGE FALL FESTIVAL THANKS**

*thank you!*

The Civic Association sends an enormous **THANK YOU** to all who helped make the October 26 Fall Festival a success. A particular shout-out goes to organizer Scott Houghton who single-handedly rounded up all the necessary supplies and got them to and from the Community of Christ church. A huge thank you is due Springfield Community of Christ Pastor Deborah Van Heest and congregation who provided volunteers, hot drinks, tables, chairs, and costume contest judges. Community volunteers Isabel Machuca, John Ritchie, Ella Houghton, Angie Houghton, Zach Cahalan, Sara Ortiz, Kristoffer Hull, Stefan Henryson, Rebekah Ortiz, and Jennifer Auble pitched in to make it all happen. Also thanks to the Van Brunt family for providing the Candy Catapult, and to DJ Mr. Mike and "Bubble Lady" Melanie Bennett for providing entertainment. We have great neighbors!

**How We Voted! Pg. 24**

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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

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1st Vice President	Scott Houghton	703-321-7320	vp1@ravensworthfarm.org
2nd Vice President			
Recording Secretary	Ginger Rogers	703-321-1151	recsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Corresponding Secretary	Diwakar Sharma	571-314-2400	corsec@ravensworthfarm.org
Treasurer	John Ritchie	703-321-8427	treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org

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Schools & Education	Jill Mowbray	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.com
Green Committee	Jim Hickey	703-321-8535	
Membership & Communications	Elissa Myers	703-321-7590	

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee	James Walkinshaw Margaret Kinder	703-314-1473 703-764-9576	james.walkinshaw@gmail.com
Hospitality	Ruth Hartman	703-321-8063	hospitality@ravensworthfarm.org
New Neighbors	Cindy Cho		choc64@gmail.com
Directory	Coordinator Advertising	Stephen Beste VACANT	703-321-9110 directory@ravensworthfarm.org
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Community Organizations			
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Andrea Poole		president@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Dan VanBrunt		president@ravensworthfarmpool.com
Green Thumb Garden Club	Karen Aftergut		

## Association Meetings & Deadlines 2019-20

MONTH	BOARD MEETING, <i>Farmer</i> DEADLINE, FLYERS DUE	<i>Farmer</i> DELIVERY	EVENTS
November	Oct. 30	23/24	
December	4		14-15 – Holiday Lights Judging
January	8	Feb. 1/2 (Feb. 8/9 snow)	
February	5	29/Mar. 1	Leap Year!
March	4	28/29	19 – Civic Assoc Mtg/ Taste of Ravensworth/ 60th Anniversary Celebration
April	1	25/26	
May	Apr. 29	16/17	9 – Community Yard Sale 21 – Civic Assoc Mtg
Summer			Last weekend of August 2020- BBQ

**Unless noted otherwise, all Board Meetings are 7:30pm at Community of Christ Church; All Civic Association Meetings are 7:30pm at Ravensworth Elementary School.**

*Con't from Pg. 1*

Fortunately, residents like you can help prevent the spread of non-native invasive plants by properly disposing of yard waste. Yard waste may be disposed of through one or more of the methods listed below.

Keep invasive plants from spreading in the environment by disposing of them with your regular trash in plastic trash bags. Use our guide at: <http://bit.ly/36IIvfo>

to identify and control invasive plants in your yard.

- Leave grass clippings on the ground to decompose and return nutrients to the soil. Grasscycling is low effort and reduces the need for fertilizer. (For more information on grasscycling, see <http://bit.ly/2cfokqv>.)
- Compost and put your waste to use improving your gardens. Dumping yard waste in forests is not composting! Dumped waste is slow to break down because it does not reach the same high temperature of a compost pile.
- Put yard waste into paper lawn bags for curbside collection by your waste disposal company. Branches, no more than 4 feet long, should be tied into bundles.
- Keep pet waste and known invasive plants out of your yard waste. Yard waste is turned into free mulch for use by county residents.
- If curbside yard waste collection is not available, drop off yard waste at one of two county facilities: the I-66 Transfer Station in Fairfax or the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton.

As part of a Watch the Green Grow outreach project, volunteers are distributing free paper lawn bags with enclosed information cards to select residents living near stream valley parks. If you receive one of these packets, kindly let us know how you plan to use the bags by returning the enclosed response card.

About the author: Tami Sheiffer is Watch the Green Grow Coordinator at Fairfax County Park Authority. She can be contacted at [Tamara.Sheiffer@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Tamara.Sheiffer@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Con't from Pg. 3

## **BOY SCOUT TROOP 991 - EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT AT POOL**

On Saturday, October 26th, Scouts, families, and friends of Troop 991 gathered for Garrett Reynolds' Eagle Project. Garrett's project came from the heart. The Ravensworth Pool has been a source of fun and friendship and Garrett wanted to give back. For his Eagle Project the Scouts restored the picnic tables, including adding wheelchair accessible tables. In memory of friends lost, a new bench was installed on Kelly's Playground.

To those who helped, Garrett cannot thank you enough. He would like to send a special shout out to Mr. Rich Morris who helped us by providing a number of the tools and secured the new bench on the playground. Even with the threatening weather, the project was a huge success!

Yours in Spirit- Garrett Reynolds

Troop 991 is a Scout-led Troop in your neighborhood, sponsored by the Ravensworth Elementary PTA. Learn more about us at: <http://www.troop991.com/>. Contact Scoutmaster Ed Haggerty @ 703.622.5831 or Edwardhaggerty1@me.com. Or come by and see for yourself what you're missing!





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## **PROTECT OUR WATER: ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN**

Storm drain markers on drains across Fairfax County tell us that anything washed or dumped down a storm drain goes directly into our streams, not to a water treatment plant. Our nearest stream, Accotink Creek and Lake Accotink, leads to the Potomac River, a source of drinking water and recreation.

**Don't let pollutants from these sources go down the drain. Prevention is easy!**

- Sediment: Bare soil, sand.
  - Grow native plants and use mulch on bare soil.
- Nutrients: Fertilizer, yard debris.
  - Limit fertilizer use, compost or bag yard debris, practice bay-friendly yard care.
- Toxics: Pesticides, motor oil, lead-based paint, salt.
  - Keep suds from car washing out of the storm drain – they can be toxic to wildlife.
  - Use pesticides only when necessary and sweep up excess.
  - Dispose of motor oil, lead-based paint and pesticides as household hazardous waste. One gallon of oil can pollute two million gallons of water.
- Pathogens: Animal or human waste.
  - Scoop the poop! Keep bacteria from dog waste out of waterways.
- Litter: Plastic, cigarettes, styrofoam, cans.
  - Put litter in the recycling or trash.



**Prevent and report storm drain dumping.** If you see hazardous wastes like paint, pesticides, or motor oil dumped in storm drains, report it to Fairfax County at 703-691-2131, TTY 711. **Only Rain in the Storm Drain!** Make sure that nothing other than water ever goes down your storm drain. Help keep water safe for children and future generations. For more information, contact the **Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District** <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/> (703) 324-1460, TTY 711

*Editor's Note: Author Carter Southwick is Boy Scout whose Eagle Scout project involves placing or replacing notices on our storm drains reminding us that they drain directly to Accotink Creek and the Potomac River.*

## **NEIGHBOR HOSTS BLACK FRIDAY CHARITY WORKOUT TO SUPPORT CHILD IN NEED**

Jose Chacon, Ravensworth Farm resident, performance, strength and conditioning coach, and owner of Stretch Moves Holistic Wellness, is hosting a charity Kettlebell Swing-a-Thon to support Rowan--a two year old child suffering from Hypotonia, or low muscle tone, on Friday, November 29. The event will take place at CrossFit Burke 5589 Guinea Road in Fairfax, VA and will run from 10 AM - 12 PM.

The goal for this Black Friday event is to raise \$5,000.00 to put towards Rowan's various medical therapies which include speech, occupational, and physical as well as the AFO braces he wears on his legs to compensate for his low muscle tone.

There is no cure for Hypotonia. It is a lifelong condition and the medical costs are daunting. In his young life, Rowan's family has already incurred costs upwards of \$25,000. All funds raised will go to Rowan's family. There will be door prizes, 50/50 raffle & great food while we grow a giving community. Contact Ravensworth Farm residents Jose Chacon or Jennifer Tillman at 202-455-6014 or [info@stretchmoves.com](mailto:info@stretchmoves.com) for more information on the fundraiser or Stretch Moves Holistic Wellness.

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## GARDEN OF THE (FALL) SEASON RESULTS

The Green Thumb Garden Club drove the neighborhood looking at gardens on October 12 and reported back.

Although it has been an incredibly dry fall, many residents are managing to maintain lovely yards and gardens. Please take a walk and enjoy recent architectural and landscaping designs our neighbors are implementing.

First Place congratulations to Wendy & Bruce Sheaffer at 8145 Halleck.  
Second Place congratulations to Brian Scott & Nanette Marshall at 5406 Nutting.  
Third Place congratulations to Maria & Carlos Santizo at 5227 Kepler Lane.

Honorable Mentions go to:

8117 Bullock Lane	5612 Rathbone Pl
8109 Gosport Lane	5614 Rathbone Pl
5604 Inverchapel Rd	5616 Rathbone Pl
5311 Oldcastle Lane	5609 Ravenel Ln
5220 Queensberry Ave	7916 Slidell Ln



## CORRECTION: 4TH & 5TH GRADERS SKI FREE IN PA

Correction from the previous Farmer, fourth and fifth graders ski free in Pennsylvania. Sixth graders have to pay. Get the SnowPass ticket at SkiPA.com. You must purchase the SnowPass well in advance. Note that the program does require an adult lift ticket purchase although not all ski areas enforce that rule.



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**MEET LONG-TIME FARMER SANDRA BURATTI**

By Suzanne Dorick

When I read The Farmer was seeking to share memories from long-term residents, I thought of my neighbor Sandra Buratti.

Sandy and Jim Buratti have lived in Ravensworth Farm on Nutting Drive since 1976 They moved in owning only a room divider. Although Sandy has volunteered Jim to be the block captain for distributing the local directory, this particular piece focuses on Sandy.

Sandy has a long term history with the Green Thumb Garden Club. She has been awarded Garden of the Season so many times she has asked to not be considered of any future awards. However, folks walking along the sidewalk opening a conversation can be shown her garden and its highlights. A star flower is the Evening Primrose that opens around sunset before your very eyes. She has a working understanding of nature and will share wisdom of English Gardeners. Being British her license plates reads “Ex Brit.”

Sandy is a theatre buff. She has cultivated a group of about 12 friends from various life walks who are invited to attend with her and the group various theatrical presentations in the DMV. These outings often involve dinner along with theatre. Sandy knows or makes friends with all involved from the parking lot attendant to the stage manager, box office staff, artistic director and many of the actors.

Speeding traffic on Nutting Drive, often related to the school, has been an issue for a long time. Parents can be observed driving a little too fast to/from the school on school days or sports activities on the weekends. Sandy reminds them through her body language to slow down. With the school bus drivers, she has conversations advising them to use Ellet for access and egress as that was built wider for ease of school traffic. This is in keeping with the bus drivers’ training. Sandy will point out that long-standing road signs direct drivers to Ellet and Queensberry. She has plans to visit our Braddock District Supervisor’s office to discuss further steps/fixes to address traffic issues.

Sandy has a special memory of an original resident of “The Farm.” The original owner of our house across the street from Sandy, Bill Peacock and his wife moved to the Virginian. Sandra visited Mr. and Mrs. Peacock when they downsized and moved there. Sandy wanted to be sure that the past neighbors were ok in the facility. The outcome of those weekly visits is that for the past 16 years she visits and entertains the residents on a weekly basis bringing along her selection of 22 puppets each with their own identities and cultures.

One bloody good neighbor.

**LONG-TIME RESIDENTS NEEDED**

Ravensworth Farm will celebrate 60 years in 2020. The Ravensworth Farmer would like to share memories from original residents of Ravensworth Farm. If you think your neighbor should be interviewed, please email the editor at [rcaf farmer@ravensworthfarm.org](mailto:rcaf farmer@ravensworthfarm.org) with your suggestions. If you would like to interview your neighbor, even better!

**ILLUMINATING CRIME PREVENTION**

We live in a wonderful community here in Ravensworth Farm. While the recent car thefts are not a reflection of our neighborhood, they are concerning. Two simple things we can do to help prevent thefts like these would be to leave our porch lights on all night and install motion lights that face our driveways. This may not be enough to deter some thieves, but it should turn many away.

If you would like help adding a motion light to your home or would be willing to help neighbors install the lights, please contact Rachel Cahalan at [rachel.cahalan@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.cahalan@gmail.com) or 269-967-2359.

## **CHRISTIANSBURG HOME TO NATION'S FIRST DRONE PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICE**

by Ian Duncan 10/20/2019 on washpost.com

Christiansburg, Va. —Retirees Susie and Paul Sensmeier stood outside of their front door Friday, watching as a small drone zipped over their neighborhood and headed for their rambler.

The aircraft — operated by Wing, an offshoot of Google's parent company — approached with a high-pitched whine, hovered in the clear sky above their front lawn and gently lowered a FedEx box containing a new puffy vest for Susie. Across the street a senior FedEx executive looked on. He'd brought his children to watch, he said, history being made.

Drones have delivered medical samples and burritos in the United States before, but Friday's deliveries were a milestone for a burgeoning industry. The companies involved in the drop at the Sensmeiers' home and others to families nearby were the first to make commercial deliveries to homes.

"I love new things," Susie Sensmeier, 81, said after the drone had departed for Wing's base in a nearby business park. "New technology. A new vest. New experiences. You don't get a lot of those at my age."

Established delivery companies and start-ups alike have been promising to deliver packages by drone for years, but strict rules governing U.S. airspace have hampered their ambitions. Finally, this spring Wing and then a UPS subsidiary received the clearances they needed from the Federal Aviation Administration.

"There's been a lot of talk about drones. Today, we're actually doing it. We're actually delivering an e-commerce order to someone's doorstep," said Richard W. Smith, the FedEx executive. "This is not vaporware. This is real. It's here today."

In the drone industry people often talk about a "crawl, walk, run" approach to getting unmanned aircraft safely flying alongside planes and helicopters. Jay Merkle, the head of the FAA's drone integration office, said the industry has now crossed into walking, prodded in part by a 2017 directive issued by President Trump. Running, Merkle said, will be when projects like the one in Christiansburg can be scaled across the country. That still looks to be a ways off.

Clearing Wing to operate for what it is still calling a trial required painstaking work to figure out how to apply to drones rules written years ago with airplanes and helicopters in mind. The company remains bound by strict limits on its operations.

Pilots' groups have been carefully watching the process, formally lodging safety concerns with the FAA. And while the mayor of Christiansburg said Wing has been welcomed to the town, a proposal by Uber to launch a drone food delivery service in San Diego has been met with local opposition over noise concerns.

In recent written comments to the FAA, the Air Line Pilots Association International, complained that the internal manuals Wing relies on to demonstrate that it can operate safely are proprietary and so can't be assessed by the public. The far-reaching scope of exemptions from flight rules that Wing has sought, the group wrote, "appears to erode the safety levels established by the FAA."

But the FAA says it needs the data gathered from early operations to decide how to write any future rules — doing otherwise, Merkle said, would "completely stifle innovation."

Tom McMahon, a spokesman for the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, a drone advocacy organization, said progress has been slower than the industry would like, but that meaningful steps forward have been made in recent months. He said he expects that customers will come to appreciate the speedy delivery made possible by hoisting packages through the air. "It's like anything else we've seen with technology," he said. "We don't appreciate what it provides to us until it starts performing the service."

*Con't Pg. 13*

*Con't from Pg. 12*

Susie Sensmeier, who agreed to take part in Friday's event after attending a Wing demo a few weeks ago, said she wished she had had access to Wing's service in the summer when her husband was recovering from a broken leg. Walgreens, which is also participating in the project by offering a list of 100 products for sale including over-the-counter medical goods, snacks and drinks, is pitching it as a boon to parents with sick kids.

The idea in Christiansburg, a town of about 22,500 where Wing set up shop in partnership with nearby Virginia Tech, is for customers to be able to use an app on their phone to place an order and get a delivery within about 10 minutes.

The drone that arrived at the Sensmeiers' had departed from a base that Wing calls a nest about a mile away. Built from artfully arranged gray shipping containers, the nest is like a slice of Silicon Valley tucked behind a Mexican restaurant and a bar in small-town Virginia. Inside, about a dozen of the drones sit on launchpads where their batteries can be charged.

The drones are made of the same kind of foam used in bicycle helmets and fly using a combination of 12 helicopter-like rotors and two wing-mounted propellers. A single pilot can monitor up to five of the autonomous aircraft from a control booth inside one of the shipping containers. Observers who monitor the air are stationed around town.

From the nest, the drone travels at speeds up to 65 mph and can carry three-pound packages to homes within about 3½ miles. When it arrives, the drone lowers the package, nestling it on the ground. Hundreds of potential customers have signed up, a Wing spokeswoman said.

Christiansburg Mayor Michael Barber said Wing had done a good job of being visible in the community, showing up at street festivals and markets, where they've been flooded with interest. "It's one of the more exciting innovations to come our way in a while," said Barber, a retired banker and veteran of town politics. "I've not heard any complaints whatsoever."

Wing isn't charging for deliveries, and unlike UPS, Uber and Amazon, the other companies that have obtained or are publicly known to be seeking approval to deliver packages by drones, it's not already in the delivery business. (Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

Wing chief executive James Ryan Burgess said the company will succeed by forming partnerships with businesses big and small — one of its partners in Christiansburg is a local sweet shop — offering them faster, cheaper deliveries than going by ground. "Drone technology has the potential to be radically lower cost," Burgess said.

Asked why FedEx looked for outside help while UPS has pursued its program in-house, Smith said his company's expertise is not in building drones. Ultimately, Smith said he expects drones to complement the company's existing drivers, potentially hauling the one package that can't be neatly fit into an efficient ground route.

"We believe that Wing had a technology that was ahead of other drone technologies," he said. "The proof's in the pudding. We're out here delivering packages. Others are just talking about it."

While the development of self-driving cars and trucks — the other major technology poised to change the country's transportation system — has been marked in many ways by the absence of federal rules, would-be drone operators have had to contend with the strict control the FAA imposes over the nation's skies. Over the past half-decade, the agency has gradually found ways to allow unmanned aircraft to undertake increasingly sophisticated operations.

Wing and UPS now have certification as commercial air carriers, leading UPS to bill itself as the first "drone airline" when its approval was granted this month. UPS is conducting deliveries of medical samples at a hospital campus in North Carolina and carried out a run immediately upon getting its new approval, laying claim to a first of its own. "This is history in the making, and we aren't done yet," UPS chief executive David Abney, said in a statement at the time. In practice, though, both companies are still required to adhere to a lengthy set of limits even as they've been granted waivers from some FAA rules.

*Con't Pg. 16*

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**NEW NEIGHBORS**

New folks move in all the time, especially over the spring and summer. If you have new neighbors, tell Cindy Cho. If you are a new neighbor- welcome! Please let Cindy know you have arrived so that one of her New Neighbor Committee members can stop by with information and some goodies. Cindy Cho (choc64@gmail.com)

**RAVENSWORTH FARM ON FACEBOOK**

Want to keep up with issues, have firewood to give away, lost or found a dog, or you're wondering what surprises others have run into during renovations? The Ravensworth Farm Facebook page is the place to go. Send Tom Mathis, the group's moderator, a join request and he'll add you to this lively and informative community. You can adjust your notification settings and visit the page as little or as often as you choose. While an excellent communication tool, the Facebook page is not supported or endorsed by the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association. For Civic Association news (and old issues of The Farmer), visit 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 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org or to PO Box 1733, Springfield, VA 22151. The classified ad section is a service to Ravensworth residents and is not intended for business or commercial use. Ads for house sales, commercial services, etc. will be run in this section once. If you wish to repeat your ad, you will need to purchase advertising in The *Farmer* .

<b>DONATIONS ACCEPTED</b>	Good condition used clothes, baby gear (not cribs), and small, useful kitchen items for Immanuel's Hope and good condition clothes, winter outerwear, new socks, and small toiletries for Central Union Mission in DC. Drop off at Immanuel Bible Church lobby (Braddock Rd entrance #1) or the Ortiz home in Ravensworth Farm. Ortiz Family – 703-321-8757
<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 ONLY on Saturday mornings.

*Con't from Pg. 13*

Some changes were straightforward: Wing's small drone won't need to carry pilot manuals on board, for example. Other issues have been more contentious: Wing sought to relax the medical certificate requirements for its pilots and to allow pilots to switch over while the drones were in the air, but the FAA rejected those ideas in a decision issued this month.

Merkle said he expects the relationship between regulators and operators will continue to evolve, calling the work with Wing and UPS a "tremendous learning experience." "We are learning to apply to existing regulations in a very innovative way to maintain the safety our communities expect," he said.

ian.duncan@washpost.com

## **HOLIDAY LIGHTS JUDGING DEC 14 & 15**

Holiday lights judging will be held after dark December 14 and/or 15, depending on the weather. Categories to be awarded are:

Best Religious  
Best Window/Door  
Kid's Choice  
Best Overall

Décor can include more than just lights. The "Judging Party" is great fun. To indicate that you want to help organize or participate in the Judging Party, contact Civic Association Board Member Ginger Rogers. Results will be announced on the Ravensworth Farm community Facebook group and in the issue of The Ravensworth Farmer to be delivered at the end of January 2020.



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**Pastor Team:**

David Condit, Deb Van Heest, Meg Nicholas

**Sunday Services:**

11:00a.m. Worship Service

**Look to us for year-round community events!**

Follow us on Facebook @springfieldcofcongregation

**www.CofChrist.org**  
**communityofchristpastorteam@gmail.com**





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## EVENTS

*Something to add? Email RFCAFarmer@ravensworthfarm.org or call 703-321-8757 to add to the calendar of events. \* notes Civic Association Events +notes Pool events*

Nov. 21-24 – **ELF Jr** by Lake Braddock Middle School Theatre; LBMISMusicaltheatre.com for info

Dec 2- 11am-12pm **Healthy Strides Wellness Book Club** @ George Mason Regional Library, Book: “Why We Sleep” by Matthew Walker, PhD

Dec 7 – 4-5:30pm **Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-A-Long**, gates open 2:30pm, Toys for Tots donations accepted, free but arrive early

\*Dec 14 or 15 – evening- **Holiday Lights Judging**, details TBA

Dec 14 & 15 – 3-7pm- **Bethlehem Walk**, interactive for all ages, Parkwood Baptist Church, Braddock Rd & Kings Park Drive, Parkwood.org

Dec 22-24, **Christmas Eve by Candlelight Concert & Carol Sing**, Immanuel Bible Church corner of Braddock Rd and Backlick Rd, free but best to RSVP in advance at <https://immanuelbible.church/music/Christmas> or 703-941-4124. Dec 22, 6pm; Dec 23, 7:30pm; Dec.24, 4pm & 6pm

Dec. 24 – 3pm- **Christmas Eve Service**, Burke Community Church, burkecommunity.com

\*Mar 19 – 7:30pm **Ravensworth Farm Civic Association Meeting**, Ravensworth ES, Taste of Ravensworth and 60th Anniversary Celebration

\*May 9 – 8-11m, **Community Yard Sale**, Ravensworth Farm Pool

\*May 21 – 7:30pm **Ravensworth Farm Civic Association Meeting**, Ravensworth ES

+May 23 – 11am **Ravensworth Farm Pool Opens**

\*Aug 29 – **Annual Ravensworth Farm BBQ**

Check out Lake Braddock Middle School theater production schedules at [www.LBMSmusicaltheatre.com](http://www.LBMSmusicaltheatre.com) and Lake Braddock High School at <http://www.lbtheatre.com/>.

## NEIGHBORHOOD DAYCARE HAS SPACE AVAILABLE

Shringar Rana, owner of neighborhood daycare Jubilant Tots on Carrick Lane, has two regular spots available and space for drop-ins on an as-needed basis. Shringar has a great deal of experience in varied age groups, in addition to her own children who are now in elementary and middle school.

Shringar has a Fairfax county permit, CPR/ First Aid and Medication Administration (MAT) certificates. She can provide references from the neighborhood parents whose kids she has been watching over the past several years. Ms. Rana says she strives to provide a safe, clean and affordable place for your child to learn, play and grow healthy and happy. She'll even teach them to eat their vegetables! You can contact Shringar Rana at: 571-338-3958 or [ravensworthhome@gmail.com](mailto:ravensworthhome@gmail.com) for more information.

## POOL NEWS

Elections were held during the October 23 meeting of the Ravensworth Farm Swim & Racquet Club. The new and returning Board Members are Dan Van Brunt, President; Susie Bousquet, Vice President; Nicole Leger, Secretary; Shannon Small, Treasurer; Jennifer Auble, Membership Director; Jill Mowbray, Swim Team Representative; Melinda Young, Dive Team Representative; Ursula Schuttinga, Activities Director; Courtney Lunn, Concessions Director; Rob Hannam, Grounds & Maintenance Director; and Kate Janczyk, Web Director.

## FCPS HOMELESS STUDENTS OFFICE COLLECTING GIFT CARDS

The Fairfax County Schools office of Homeless Student Assistance is always in need of grocery store and discount store (Walmart/Target/misc) gift cards to use in instances of sudden homelessness and other need. Contact Social Worker (and Ravensworth E.S. parent) Elizabeth Rivera at 571-423-1555.

Convenient Before & After Hours Pickup

# **CAPITAL CAR CARE**

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## **CONSIDER CLOVER FOR YOUR LAWN**

Before the 1950's, clover was considered an essential and desired part of lawns. Then 2,4D broadleaf killer came on the market and smart marketing by the chemical companies influenced homeowners that anything but grass in their lawn was a weed.

Clover's benefits include high drought tolerance and nitrogen fixation – which make for an attractive and low maintenance “green” green lawn – no chemicals or fertilizer needed.

Traditional manicured lawns use tons of water, broad leaf weed killers, and fertilizer. Adding clover to your lawn can end the need for this waste.

### **Nitrogen Fixating**

Clover, like all legumes, takes nitrogen from the air and through a chemical reaction, deposits it in the ground as an absorbable fertilizer. In lawns, it provides a constant trickle of of fertilizer to itself and surrounding grasses – making the whole lawn more lush, green, and healthy.

### **Drought Tolerant**

Clover grows deep roots and needs less water to stay green than grasses. If you see clover patches in lawns in the summer, it is usually green, while the rest of the lawn is brown and dormant. Clover spread throughout a lawn can make it appear green year round.

### **Resists Pet Urine**

Dog owners usually have brown spots in their lawn from their pet's urine. Unlike grass, clover is highly resistant to this and helps maintain a uniformly green lawn.

### **Grows In Bad Soil**

Clover can thrive in low fertility soils. In fact, clover in a lawn is often a sign of low nitrogen levels in soil because it does so much better than grasses. Since it is nitrogen fixating, it can supply its own nutrients.

Source: CloverLawn.org, brought to Ravensworth Farm's attention by resident Stephanie Hammond

## **SOS BLOCK CAPTAINS - NOW'S THE TIME!**

Block captains deliver pre-paid Directory orders and sign up new Civic Association members and deliver Directories on the spot. You can usually complete your duties in one November or December afternoon. When neighbors aren't home, leave them a note so they can contact you to join. Some of your neighbors volunteered last year. However, many streets didn't have active block captains so many households that normally would join did not join. Sign up for some blocks near you or be adventurous and visit the other side of the neighborhood! Contact Elissa Myers to be a block captain- 703-321-7590 or [elissa@elissamyers.com](mailto:elissa@elissamyers.com).

## **FOOD DRIVE AT RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Ravensworth Elementary is collecting food donations for ECHO, Ecumenical Community Helping Others November 1 – December 20. Non-perishable food donations can be dropped off in the school lobby.  
<https://www.echo-inc.org/>

## **COLUMNISTS & WRITERS WANTED**

Are you a writer or wanna-be writer? Do you have information to share on a regular or semi-regular basis? Join the “staff” of The Ravensworth Farmer and share your expertise or information with the other 856 homes in our neighborhood via the only medium they all receive- The Ravensworth Farmer. Email or call Sara Ortiz at [ravensworth.farmer@gmail.com](mailto:ravensworth.farmer@gmail.com) or 703-321-8757.



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## **FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK (FLAP) NEWS**

By Mary Keeser

On behalf of Friends of Lake Accotink Park-FLAP, we would like to extend our most sincere thanks and gratitude to Acting Lake Accotink Park Director Tony Bulmer for his willingness to collaborate and work together to positively impact our Lake Accotink Park. Although Tony was only on board a short time, by working together (partnership in stewardship) we have supported the FLAP missions and accomplished and developed many important projects. Join us in wishing Tony the best of luck as he continues to support Fairfax County Park Authority missions.

We would also like to welcome Sarah Oberther as the Acting Lake Accotink Park Manager. Sarah has extensive experience working in many areas of the Fairfax County Park Authority. We look forward to working with Sarah to continue our missions at Lake Accotink Park.

Meet Sarah and our Special Guest Speaker at our next FLAP General Membership Meeting, details to follow in our FLAP newsletter.

HELP LAKE ACCOTINK PARK – FLAP (Friends Of Lake Accotink Park) is your official Care Taker of Lake Accotink Park – LAP

We need your help to continue our educational, care programs and projects. Please volunteer (a few hours a month) service hours provided: Committee positions Communications Outreach/ Special Projects and many more :  
Contact@flapaccotink.org

### MONTHLY

WHEN: 2nd Sun of every Month

TIME: 9:00am -11:00ish

### LOCATIONS:

\*Lake Accotink Trail entrance Ellet and Inverchapel Road

\*Lake Accotink Marina

\*Lake Accotink Trail entrance at the end of Danbury Forest/Lonsdale dr.

\*Lake Accotink Trail entrance Queensbury and Hatteras

Register: [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#!/organization\\_details/71653](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#!/organization_details/71653)

## **RAVENSWORTH PRECINCT: HOW WE VOTED**

State Senate – Richard Saslaw 581 votes; Other 99 votes

39th District House of Delegates – Nick Bell 304 votes; Vivian Watts 509 votes

Commonwealth’s Attorney – Steve Descano 453 votes; Jonathan Fahey 333 votes

Sheriff – Stacey Kincaid 544 votes; Christopher DeCarlo 182 votes

Chair Board of Supervisors – Joseph Galdo 290 votes; Jeffrey McKay 500 votes

Braddock Supervisor – Jason Remer 283 votes; James Walkinshaw 473 votes; C. Campbell 38 votes

At-Large School Board – Abrar Omeish 336 votes; Karen Keys-Gamarra 434 votes; Rachna Heizer 373 votes; Cheryl Buford 327 votes; Vinson Palathingal 249 votes; Priscilla DeStefano 316 votes

Braddock District School Board – Zia Tompkins 281 votes; Megan McLaughlin 507 votes

Soil & Water Conservation Director – Jerry Peters 400 votes; Chris Koerner 381 votes; Edward McGovern 270 votes; Christopher Bowen 268 votes; Jane Dudik 260 votes; Monica Billger 387 votes; Jet Thomas 53 votes

Public School Bond – 602 Yes votes; No 180 votes



**YARD DEBRIS COLLECTION: A MESSAGE FROM AMERICAN DISPOSAL**

As we gear up for the fall season, we would like to remind you of our policies on collection. Please keep in mind, during our heavier leaf period, we will exercise our 10 bag / 10 bundle rule if needed.

Yard Debris: Grass clippings and leaves need to be placed in compostable yard waste bags. Personal cans may be used; however, they need to be marked "Yard Debris". Tree limbs and brush must be no longer than 4-5 feet in length and 3 inches in diameter. These items must be tied with rope or twine in arm length bundles. We will collect a maximum of 10 bags of grass clippings and / or leaves, and 10 bundles of brush per pickup. Items that are bagged and bundled are not to exceed 50lbs. Concrete; rocks, mulch, sod and dirt are not accepted.

**Fairfax County Residents: Yard debris season is March 1 through December 24.**

Leaves can easily be composted in your backyard making it unnecessary for us to come to your house for removal. If you have never considered it, here are some reasons why composting your yard debris is a good idea:

1. It's nature's way of recycling. Leaves, branches, and other organic matter originated from the earth. Why not keep it there?
2. Once it's done 'composting', the nutrient-rich product can be used as a better alternative to peat, mulch, soil additives, OR potting mixtures.
3. Save yourself the hassle (and cost!) of purchasing yard debris collection bags. Simply rake the debris into your composting pile and watch it break down over time.

Understandably, composting is a solution that will work for some, but not all of our customers. If you have the means, try it!!

And remember...PUMPKINS ARE COMPOSTABLE.

Either toss in your compost pile OR place at the curb on yard debris day.

**ADVERTISE IN THE RAVENSWORTH FARMER**

Reach more than 850 homes with news of your services or merchandise seven times over the 2019-2020 year. Contact Katherine Craig at ads@ravensworthfarm.org for ad sizes, rates, and information on permanent ads in the body of The Ravensworth Farmer. Alternatively, you can include an insert in The Ravensworth Farmer that you can change each month, provide 900 copies of your flyer and a check for \$45 made out to Ravensworth Farm Civic Association to John Ritchie before each month's flyer due date (see page 2). You can reach John at 703-321-8427 to coordinate drop-off.

**"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 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org. Thanks for sharing!



# Ravensworth Farm's Appreciation Day EVERY TUESDAY

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## Ravensworth Pool

Membership Questions? Contact [membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com](mailto:membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com)