



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

February 2020

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Farmers,

On March 19, 2020, the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association will be holding a double celebration, our annual Taste of Ravensworth and our 60th Anniversary as a neighborhood. We will celebrate the history of Ravensworth Farm with a presentation from resident author/historian Mary Lipsey, we will honor our original and longtime residents, and we will enjoy delectables from local eateries.

We are grateful to those who have contributed so much to our community and given us a valuable legacy worthy of our admiration and continuation. As new homeowners flocked to the Capital Beltway corridor, those who settled in Ravensworth Farm built a vibrant neighborhood where community meant something. It astounds me that that sense of community has continued to this day, bucking the depersonalizing trend of urban America. I look forward to learning more about what it was like to live here in the 1960's.

Ravensworth Farm is a great place to live because of them and because of you. As I consider the original owners' contributions, Ravensworth sits under a thin blanket of snow, and I anticipate heavier snows to fall in the weeks to come. As you clear your driveways, please be

Con't Pg. 3

WE'RE CELEBRATING 60 YEARS!



**Join us on March 19th to
celebrate the Annual Taste of
Ravensworth and our 60th
Anniversary.**

Location: TBD



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Civic Association Dues are Due!**

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pay online.**

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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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
February	5	29/Mar. 1	Leap Year!
March	4	28/29	19 – Civic Assoc Mtg/ Taste of Ravensworth/ 60th Anniversary Celebration (location TBA)
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

considerate of your neighbors, especially those who may not be capable of shoveling snow the way they did when they first moved here. Please clear the sidewalks and help those in need with their driveways.

Also, please consider getting more involved in the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association. We've got a terrific board of directors. It has been an immense pleasure working with these wonderful people. But no matter how wonderful they are, we always want to involve more of you. So please, come to the meeting on March 19 and reach out to us; share your interests with us and enjoy excellent fellowship with your neighbors.

Truly yours,

Allan B. Robertson
President

2019 HOLIDAY LIGHTS WINNERS

Best Religious - 8121 Adair
Best Window/Door - 7916 Gosport
Kid's Choice - 8009 Ellet
Best Overall - 5514 Inverchapel

Honorable Mention
5220 Queensberry
5414 Moultrie

Although there are only four categories that are judged, all who decorated their homes are winners for making our neighborhood so festive. And, thanks to all our neighbors who came out to judge the lights. And a special thank you to Elissa Myers and Bill Rogers for hosting the event!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS!



GLASS RECYCLING

Editor's Note: In light of recent announcements that Fairfax County no longer accepts glass bottles, jars, etc. in its recycling program unless they are taken to Purple bins located throughout the County, the Editor found this recent email to the Civic Association website interesting.

"My name is Eric Vahouny, a local entrepreneur. At the beginning of this year I started a small recycling business for homeowners to recycle their glass bottles and jars. Here is my website:

<https://purplepilotprogram.wixsite.com/website>

If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in this service please let me know and/or spread the word."

CONDOLENCES

The Ravensworth Farm community extends condolences to Kay Grigsby Medigovich as she mourns the death of her husband Dan.



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LONGTIME BLIZARDS

ORIGINAL OWNER INTERVIEW
by Robert Blizard

When I saw the opportunity to interview original owners of Ravensworth Farm for the Ravensworth Farmer newsletter, I jumped on it. It simply meant sitting down with my parents—Ann and Marvin Blizard—who are original owners of their rambler house on Ravenel Lane, between Slidell Lane and Sedgwick Lane, since March 1964.

Originally from East Tennessee, my parents were married in September 1960 and moved to Washington, D.C. following their marriage. My father had been working as a scientist in the national capital area since the late 1950s at the Naval Research Laboratory along the Potomac River in Southwest Washington. At first, they lived in a corner of Southwest next to an area of Prince George's County, Maryland called Eastover. Prior to my birth, my mother was working as a nurse at a doctor's office on Mississippi Avenue in Southeast.

In 1963, my parents moved to an apartment complex off Heritage Drive in Annandale that was then called Americana Fairfax. They lived on Donnybrook Court there for one year and I was born at Fairfax Hospital while they lived there, just a little over a month after President Kennedy was assassinated. In fact, my parents had driven on ice to see his new "eternal flame" gravesite at Arlington Cemetery on Christmas Day of 1963 and I was born the next day.

After I arrived, my mother and father decided to buy a house in Ravensworth Farm when I was only three months old. They were attracted to the neighborhood because of the good name of the builder, Edward R. Carr, which had put up several subdivisions in the area. The price was \$24,500.

My parents liked the house because it was near Lake Accotink and on a street that would not be a thoroughfare. They saw Ravenel Lane as having a semi-isolated character and being off the beaten path. They also liked the large basement, good-sized yard, fireplace and eat-in kitchen, as well as the four bedrooms. There were no choices on upgrades because the house was too near completion. Now in their fifty-sixth year in Ravensworth, they still use the original stove and oven. The bathrooms are still referred to as the yellow and blue bathrooms. A wooden beam in the basement shows my increasing height measurements from childhood and my father later designed and built a second chimney and fireplace on the bottom floor.

The Carr company seems to have built the sections of the neighborhood closest to Braddock Road first. My father remembers Queensberry Avenue not being paved after Drayton Lane when he and my mother first came to look at houses. Many of the homes were not fully completed at the time and even fewer were occupied.

Upon moving in, the house had no grass so the builders put down sod including on a pile of rocks, which my father had to remove later. At some point in the early days of the neighborhood, many of the streets had their addresses renumbered. I have always wondered why the builders, who had employed somewhat of an alphabetical naming scheme, had stopped at S and not used all letters of the alphabet for the streets—and, yet, repeated some letters. The letter R has the most with four streets. There are two for H, P and S. Why? I shall forever think about what went into that decision. Even today, when I meet people who grew up in Ravensworth Farm, I like to see if they can name the streets alphabetically.

At the time my parents moved here and for several years later, my father worked at the Main Navy Building, which was on Constitution Avenue at the National Mall. It was razed decades ago. It was in the area where the Vietnam Veterans memorial welcomes visitors since the 1980s. He would commute by way of Shirley Highway, which people now refer to mostly as I-395. He carpooled with other Ravensworth Farm residents and other locals.

The Capital Beltway was still being constructed in 1964 but the section between Braddock Road and Little River Turnpike had been finished, although the section between Braddock Road and I-95 South was not. No one used the name "Mixing Bowl" then. When my parents moved their belongings from their Annandale apartment to their Ravensworth Farm house, they used the Beltway and it had very few cars traveling on that limited completed section. If I remember correctly, there was a median strip with trees between the two loops of the Beltway.

Con't Pg. 9

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Con't from Pg. 7

Braddock Road at that time was a two-lane, undulating road with a big hill near Kings Park that has since been partially leveled. As a child, our family referred to it as Funny Tummy Hill because of the feeling it gave my stomach as a toddler. Further out, George Mason University, where my mother obtained her master's degree, had just a handful of buildings.

Upon moving to Ravensworth, my parents typically shopped at the Giant in Annandale near the intersection of Little River Turnpike and Backlick Road. For other types of shopping, they often went to Seven Corners shopping center and later Landmark Mall because they both had Woodies, Hecht's and the S&W cafeteria. Landmark also had a Sears, which I visited in the summer of 2019, and it saddened me to think of how this shopping center had dwindled. I remember getting Partridge Family albums and Garanimals clothes at the Sears, as well as getting fudge and popcorn at their counter on the bottom floor at the foot of the escalator.

S&W was always a popular place for us to eat, even though I remember not liking the vegetables I was forced to consume. My parents also liked going to the Three Chefs at the triangular intersection of Little River Turnpike and Columbia Pike in Annandale, where a Walgreens now sits. We would always stop there for breakfast before driving south to see relatives in Tennessee. Other popular but now-vanished venues were the Hot Shoppes restaurant at Bailey's Crossroads, where I later worked as a waiter during college; the Red Barn, because my mother loved the fried chicken; Shakey's Pizza, which offered a piano player; and Emerson's in Fairfax, which had a huge salad bar.

At the Ravensworth Shopping Center, we shopped at Safeway, Drug Fair and High's. The Puppy Palace pet store and The Raven gift shop were also there for years. All of these businesses are gone. Royal Valet dry cleaners is, amazingly, still there. Meanwhile, Bazzano's Pizza left the shopping center not long ago; I remember walking up there with a friend during a snowstorm and eating pizza.

Con't Pg. 11



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Con't from Pg. 9

Also disappeared are chains like Peoples Drug (“two for one, two for one, two sets of prints for one low price...”), Grand Union, Dart Drug, Zayre, Raleigh’s, Garfinckel’s, Jelleff’s, Harmony Hut, Variety Records, Stride Rite, Fisher’s Hardware, Irving Sports, Northern Virginia Bank, Hechinger’s, Memco, Orange Julius, Bob’s Big Boy, Lums and Gino’s and so many others. My father remembers the old Kerlin’s Corner in Annandale and would tell me that soldiers from the Civil War had stopped there for refreshments on the way back to Washington. I once heard that one of the original Metro plans called for a subway line to come down Columbia Pike and end in Annandale; had that happened, then perhaps Kerlin’s Corner might’ve looked more like Tyson’s Corner.

Big one-screen movie theaters proliferated in the area then, with such movie houses like Roth’s Americana at the Heritage Shopping Center in Annandale, the rocking-chair theaters in Annandale and Springfield, and Bradlick Theater, where I worked in high school as an usher, at the intersection of Backlick Road and Braddock Road. Along with the classic-movie showcase on Channel 7 called Money Movie 7, these facilities enriched my love of motion pictures. Seen on local screens, my first PG-rated movie was *The Poseidon Adventure* in 1972 and my first R-rated film was *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest* in 1975.

Over the years, neighbors have come and gone. People brought food for deaths and tragedies, helped each other out when there were health issues or other needs, and invited each other over at holidays. They also connected outside when there were snowstorms, power outages, toilet-papered houses or even the occasional vandalism of vehicles about once a decade. We’ve stayed in touch with other original owners, who have long since moved away. When I organized my parents’ 50th anniversary celebration in 2010, I invited many of those old neighbors with whom we’d stayed in touch, some of whom were still in Ravensworth Farm. Of course, many of them had children my age who were my classmates. When the neighborhood held its own 50th anniversary celebration in 2010, many Ravens/Atoms from my Class of 1981 were there. Other former kids from the ‘hood stay connected via Facebook pages for Ravensworth Elementary School and Annandale High School alumni.

Kids of my generation walked to school, explored the woods in the Lake Accotink park, and walked up to the store when we were old enough. For me, going to Drug Fair to buy 45 records was a favorite activity, as was listening to American Top 40 on the radio. In the streets, we rode bikes, played dodge ball and sledged in the snow. In yards, we played all kinds of games: football, baseball, hide-and-seek. We trick-or-treated, built snowmen, caught fireflies, climbed trees, walked our dogs and attempted to propel ourselves to the sky on swings. The pool was also a major focus for everyone in the summers; I remember all of the wonderful songs of the 1970s heard over the loudspeaker when the pool would always broadcast WPGC-FM. (Who remembers “Elliott & Woodside in the Morning”?) In approximately fifth grade, two friends of mine and I once played in the area behind Ellet Road and Queensberry Avenue, exploring what may have been ruins of the Ravensworth mansion. I remember an old chimney and I often wonder what happened to those ruins once the industrial park grew.

Once the generation of original owners’ children—my generation—grew up, there seemed, according to my mother—to be a dearth of youngsters in the neighborhood. She said that one day, she stood at the front door and took in the silence. With no one playing outside and not a sound to be heard, she asked herself, “Where have all the children gone?” But there always seemed to be a boom-and-bust cycle of young children at work in Ravensworth Farm and these days, fortunately, my generation has grandchildren outside playing on Ravenel Lane.

My parents have played tennis at the courts near the pool, volunteered with scouting efforts, participated in the civic association, and served with the PTA. They have voted at Ravensworth Elementary for decades.

Looking back on life at the Farm, my father remembers what turned out to be a funny incident a few houses away on Sedgwick Lane when, at some point in the 1970s, an intoxicated neighbor tried to enter the wrong house, causing young girls in that home to scream out the windows. Helpful neighbors came running to assist, including one waving an old sword.

As for historical moments, I remember a group of us being called inside by a friend’s mother from playing in the yard to watch President Nixon give his August 1974 farewell speech. My mother remembers feeling the Pentagon explosion on September 11, 2001 as well as the infamous D.C. earthquake on August 23, 2011. In the 1970s, a movie was filmed at a home on Inverchapel Road with actor Dean Jones.

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Con't from Pg. 11

My father remembers being able to hear and sometimes feel Fort Belvoir testing explosives, getting meals at McDonald's and taking them to the lake to watch trains go by, and having picnics at the lake. We would go to carnivals, museums, beaches, the zoo and Civil War battlefields. My parents had season tickets to the Redskins and that was the era of Sonny Jurgensen, Billy Kilmer, Larry Brown and Chris Hanburger. The popular TV shows in our house featured Shirley Booth's Hazel, Flip Wilson's Geraldine and Carroll O'Connor's Archie Bunker, along with the Dingbat and the Meathead.

Fond memories for me include our dog Sam, who came from a collie breeder on Sasher Lane in Fairfax, and our cat Morris, who came to us as a somewhat feral Ravensworth stray. We once found a nest of baby robins who had fallen to the ground after a storm and tried to care for them. I even recollect their names: Pumpkin, Frisky and Little Joe. My father paid local children to dig up worms for the babies, who, sadly, did not make it. I also remember the seventeen-year locusts and a solar eclipse in second grade. Nowadays, we see eagles, foxes and deer—which was not the case when I was growing up.

I even remember trees that grew and died in my parents' yard, as well as some that had to be taken down. One day, when putting in some hemlock trees around the perimeter of the backyard, a tornado touched down in Fairfax at the Pickett Road shopping center. In our front yard for years was a Japanese cherry tree, which came from a cutting of one of those along the Tidal Basin. It was a glorious sight in the spring when it blossomed, but it did not survive.

These days, when I drive in Ravensworth Farm, I can remember which families lived on which streets and often wonder where they are today. A group of my Ravensworth Elementary School classmates and I recently connected over dinner at Kilroy's. This neighborhood was a wonderful place to grow up and I am so glad to have been raised here. I know my parents are happy to have been original owners and are delighted to continue their lives on Ravenel Lane in this subdivision built on historic land so close to the capital of the free world.

RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY NEWS

by Erika Aspuria, Ravensworth Elementary School Principal

This year Ravensworth Elementary is implementing The Positivity Project. The goal of the The Positivity Project is to "empower America's youth to build positive relationships and become their best selves."

Why relationships? Because they are the cornerstone of health, happiness, and resilience...and (according to experts) many jobs of the future. The Positivity Project developed a strategy that schools use to inspire positive relationships (student-to-student and student-to-teacher) and cultivate a school-wide #OtherPeopleMatter Mindset.

Dr. Chris Peterson took a three-year sabbatical to better understand character and its manifestations. Alongside Dr. Martin Seligman, Dr. Peterson then wrote an 800-page book on the research called Character Strengths and Virtues. This book explains that:

- 24 character strengths that are evident in the most widely influential traditions of thought in human history.
- Robust evidence of all 24 strengths existing throughout time and in all cultures of the world.
- All 24 character strengths exist in every individual.

Ranging from bravery and forgiveness to integrity and gratitude, these character strengths are the foundation of The Positivity Project's model. Each week students engage in activities and discussions to learn more about these character strengths that they possess or continue to develop.

Making children aware that every one of them has all 24 character strengths, provides the foundation for genuine self-confidence grounded in self-awareness. At the same time, it helps children better understand why everyone is different and how to appreciate those differences. Unlike our height, weight, or skin color, character is something that can't be seen with the naked eye. Therefore, understanding and valuing it — especially in other people — requires a framework of consistent reflection and discussion.

60TH ANNIVERSARY & 3RD ANNUAL TASTE OF RAVENSWORTH - MARCH 19

Come celebrate Ravensworth Farm's 60th anniversary and meet some of the folks who originally helped shape the neighborhood into the wonderful place it is today. On March 19 at 7:30, Mary Lipsey will share a history of the neighborhood and we'll celebrate with delicious food provided by Ravensworth Shopping Center businesses. Any neighbors with food-related businesses who would like to showcase their offerings at the third annual Taste of Ravensworth should contact Scott Houghton at vp1@ravensworthfarm.org.

The Ravensworth Civic Association's proposed slate of officers will be formulated during the business part of the meeting. The slate will be formally voted on at the May 21 Association meeting.

Note: At press time, there was some confusion over the availability of the school cafeteria for the March 19 meeting. Please check next month's Ravensworth Farmer for a definite location.

NOT HAPPY WITH YOUR MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN?

If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan as of January 1, and not happy with your choice, you can make a one-time election to another Medicare Advantage plan or leave your Medicare Advantage plan and return to Original Medicare. Switching to original Medicare also provides the opportunity to join a Medicare Prescription Drug plan.

The extended deadline for these changes is March 31. Coverage begins the first day of the month after your enrollment form is received. Don't hesitate to call the Virginia Insurance Counseling & Assistance Program at 703-324-5851 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/older-adults.

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If you have children in the baby to younger elementary years, you may need the Babysitting Co-op for no-cost, no-guilt babysitting swaps. Join the co-op through sponsorship by a current co-op member. Contact Chris Hunt at starsman66@yahoo.com or any other co-op member for more information or to attend the next meeting.

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* .

HANDYMAN	Twenty year Ravenel Lane resident offering handyman services within Ravensworth Farm. Mr. Riyad Bouizar, cell 202-409-8005; riyad.bouizar@gmail.com
DAYCARE	Jubilant Tots on Carrick Ln has regular and drop-in space. Fairfax County permit, CPR/First Aid, Medication Administration certified. Shringar Rana at: 571-338-3958 or ravensworthome@gmail.com
DONATIONS ACCEPTED	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
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.

VOLUNTEER SOLUTIONS

Would you like to be healthier in the New Year? Did you know that volunteering may improve your wellbeing? Find a variety of volunteer opportunities through Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions. For a complete listing, view bit.ly/volunteersolutions or call 703-324-5406. You also may email volunteersolutions@FairfaxCounty.gov.

Cross County Needs:

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IT'S A GREAT TIME TO JOIN SCOUT TROOP 991

Troop 991 provides many opportunities for boys to learn, lead, and develop great friendships. Below are some of the activities coming in up 2020.

February:

Pinewood Derby - The Troop helps our Cub Scout Pack race their handmade wooden cars. Come and watch the races!

Skiing/Tubing/Snowboarding Weekend – An annual event that is beginner friendly!

March:

Court of Honor - Scouts are recognized for rank advancement and merit badges earned in the previous months.

The Crossover Event - Cub Scouts who are now old enough to participate in the Scouting program are welcomed to the Troop.

Merit Badge Jamboree - A great opportunity for Scouts to earn numerous Merit Badges over the weekend.

April:

Spring Camporee - An overnight camping trip where Troop 991 participates in a friendly competition against other area Troops.

May:

Yard Sale Service Project - The Troop's largest fundraiser (meaning Parents aren't out selling popcorn...). The Scouts help cook and serve food during the Ravensworth Farm Bi-Annual Neighborhood Yard Sale.

Camp Henson - The Scouts learn Archery at Camp Henson

June:

Solomon's Island - The Scouts head east to camp and participate in numerous activities from swimming to mini golf.

July:

Summer Camp - Scouts spend a week away in western VA working on Merit Badges, leadership skills, and creating lasting memories with their friends.

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 Asst. Scoutmaster Bill Thewes at 253-985-0687 or William.Thewes@gmail.com. Or come by and see for yourself what you're missing!



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HELP RECYCLING THRIVE, DITCH THE FILTHY FIVE

The Filthy Five is a notorious gang committed to trashing recycling! Help Fairfax County foil the Filthy Five's plans by pitching them in the trash, or implement these alternative reuse and recycling strategies:



- **Plastic Bags**—These get wound around recycling processing equipment and slow things down considerably! Reuse them to clean up after your dog or for cleaning the litter box. Otherwise, bring them to grocery stores along with all other plastic film, including shrink wrap, bubble wrap, deflated packaging pillows, bread bags, and other food storage bags. Plastic bags are recycled into new plastic bags or plastic lumber used to make benches and decks.
- **Shredded Paper**—Paper is highly recyclable, but when it's in tiny pieces it cannot be processed through residential programs. Essentially, it flies, floats, and gets filthy in the process. Instead consider putting in your compost pile, make papier-mâché, or use it as animal bedding for your pet hamster or gerbil.
- **Hangers, Cords & Hoses**—These items strangle and destroy recycling processing equipment and are often referred to as “tangles!” Take old hangers back to the dry cleaners or donate to secondhand stores when feasible. Everything else—hoses, electrical cords, extension cords and computer cords are just trash, so toss them out!
- **Takeout Containers & Cups**—It would be nice if these items were recyclable but wishing upon a star will not make it so! Recyclers are only sorting for plastic bottles and jugs, NOT takeout containers or foam of any kind! Reduce the use of these items by bringing your own takeout containers or making more of your meals at home.
- **Dirty Diapers**—Yes, they are made from paper fiber, but they are contaminated, and therefore can NOT be recycled or reused, ever. Put these in the trash to protect those collecting and processing your recyclables.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS - BE A BLOCK CAPTAIN

Block captains deliver pre-paid Directory orders and sign up new Civic Association members and deliver Directories on the spot. Forty of your neighbors volunteered last year. However, many streets didn't have active block captains so membership was down- resulting in a significant reduction in budget for Civic Association activities. Sign up for a block 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.

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EVENTS

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

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

*April – **Junk Truck at Pool**. 1st or 2nd Saturday of April. To be confirmed late February

*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 and Lake Braddock High School at <http://www.lbtheatre.com/>.

WHY JOIN THE CIVIC ASSOCIATION?

Are you a writer or wanna-be writer? Do you have information to share on a regular or semi-regular basis? Join the Your \$15 membership (what a bargain!) helps cover the cost of writing, printing, and delivering this newsletter to all 858 homes in Ravensworth Farm eight times per year.

It also covers the cost of updating and printing the Ravensworth Farm Community Directory each year. The Directory is only available to members. In addition to providing the names, addresses and phone numbers for your neighbors (so you'll know where to go to pick up those items being offered on the Facebook page), the Directory also provides you with emergency numbers (for when your internet is dead), and useful non-emergency numbers. It contains the history of Ravensworth Farm and the Covenants and Restrictions associated with the neighborhood. It even contains contact information for youth looking to work! If you need a teen to babysit, pet sit, shovel, rake, or wash your car, just \$10 gets you a copy of this coveted list.

In addition to The Ravensworth Farmer and the Ravensworth Farm Directory, the Civic Association also funds:

- three informative general meetings per year,
- community-wide costume parade and Fall Festival,
- holiday decoration judging,
- summer picnic/BBQ/bash,
- maintenance of the plants and signs at the three community entrances,
- donations to the Scouts and the school,
- advertising of the spring community-wide yard sale,
- community large-trash-items clean-up day every spring, and
- many other activities and community-care needs.

If you aren't a member, join now via the included form, contact Elissa Myers to become a member - 703-321-7590 or elissa@elissamyers.com-, or answer the door when your Block Captain comes knocking. It would be great to welcome every one of our 858 households into the Civic Association!

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 or 703-321-8757.

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 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org with your suggestions. If you would like to interview your neighbor, even better!

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.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD JOBS AVAILABLE

Maybe you’ve noticed that the Nutting/Ellet intersection usually has a police officer instead of a crossing guard but sometimes there’s no adult at all. Fairfax County is short on crossing guards across the county. If you’re interested in a part-time job helping your community, consider becoming a Crossing Guard. Crossing Guards are Fairfax County Police Department employees and can be eligible for health benefits depending on number of schools served. For more information, check out <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/commontopics/joinourteam/schoolcrossingguard>.



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