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RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

March 2021

The Ravensworth *Farmer*

Issue 4

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Farmers!

Though the recent snowfalls have been beautiful, I cannot wait until it is warmer outside. I've never felt the constraints of winter like this before, and I look forward to sunnier days.

The RFCA has stood up a nominating committee to search for and nominate candidates for the RFCA Board. If you or someone you know is (or might be) interested in any board position, please reach out to me (prez@ravensworthfarm.org) or anyone else on the board.

Elections for the board will be held at the RFCA Membership meeting on May 27, 2021.

Two members of our board have been serving for years. They would love to pass these responsibilities over to other Farmers, as would the Farmer's editor:

- Recording Secretary (Board position, elected annually)
- First Vice President (Board position, elected annually)
- Editor of Farmer (appointed position, yearly stipend)

Our next General Membership Meeting is March 25, 2021. It will be a Zoom meeting, and I hope to see you here.

Stay safe & healthy, Marcie

PO BOX CORRECTION

The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association's Post Office Box has changed. The wrong address appeared in the previous Farmer.

Please note down this address:

**Ravensworth Farm
Civic Association
PO Box 1733
Springfield, VA 22151**

Pay Dues

**Still need to join the Civic Association?
You can do so online at
<http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org>
(the link has been fixed).**

**OR, pay your 2020-2021 dues by sending
a check (\$15) to:
Ravensworth Farm Civic Association
Box 1733
Springfield, VA 22151-1020**

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

P.O. BOX 1773, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Marcie Winit	703-678-9074	prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1st Vice President	Scott Houghton	703-598-1431	vp1@ravensworthfarm.org
2nd Vice President	Richard Hildebrand		vp2@ravensworthfarm.org
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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Schools & Education	Jill Mowbray	703-865-8368	bjm820@hotmail.com
Green Committee	Jim Hickey	703-321-8535	
Membership & Communications	Elissa Myers	703-626-9087	

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Entrance Committee	Margaret Kinder	703-764-9576	
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
<i>Farmer</i>	Editor Preparation Advertising, Flyers Distribution Advertising	Sara Ortiz Susan Deyampert John Ritchie Vince DeCoursey Katherine Craig	703-321-8757 703-321-3150 703-321-8427 703 850-9392 703-321-3149 rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org rdecourseyjr@verizon.net ads@ravensworthfarm.org
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 2020-21

MONTH	BOARD MEETING/FARMER DEADLINE/FLYERS DUE	<i>Farmer</i> DELIVERY	EVENTS
March	3	20	Mar 25 – General Membership Meeting
April	7	24	
May	5	22	May 27 – General Membership Meeting
Summer			Last weekend of August 2021- BBQ

All meetings are open to residents of Ravensworth Farm. Unless noted otherwise, all meetings are 7:30pm online. Contact Diwakar Sharma, Corresponding Secretary, at CorSec@ravensworthfarm.org for a link to join.

MARCH 25 - GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Megan McLaughlin, School Board Member for Braddock District, will be the main speaker at the March 25 General Membership Meeting of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association. This will be after the projected date of students' return to school in-person classes and a great opportunity to hear how return-to-school is going, as well as how the hybrid online/in-person classes and the online-only classes are going.

Other speakers at the March 25 meeting will include a member of the Ravensworth Farm Pool board and an update from Save Lake Accotink regarding planned dredging and related topics. There will also be an update on the nominating committee's activities and an opportunity for those interested in serving on the Civic Association's board to hear more about that.

Due to the ongoing restriction on group gatherings, the meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm. Use the meeting ID and passcode below to join at www.zoom.us. If you're reading this online, you can click on the link below.

ZOOM Info

Topic: RFCA - March 2021 General Membership Meeting

Time: Mar 25, 2021 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting using this link (from online Farmer)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84961132240?pwd=eUJsYitmQURTWk5iaW5uQUhWL0RIUT09>

or typing in this meeting information at www.zoom.us

Meeting ID: 849 6113 2240

Passcode: 966972

NO JUNK TRUCK DAY

Fairfax County has informed neighborhoods that the County will not sponsor any Junk Truck clean-up days this year, due to the coronavirus epidemic. Likewise, Ravensworth Farm Civic Association will not host in-person events until state and local regulations allow. As we approach one year since we all went into quarantine "for two weeks" in March 2020, we do hope to be able to gather again soon.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 991 NEWS

For over 60 years Ravensworth's own Boy Scout Troop 991 has served our community, while teaching valuable leadership and outdoor skills to our young men. Our troop is very active, meeting 3 times a month on Wednesday evenings and participating on a weekend campout or other activity monthly. While COVID has forced us back to virtual meetings for a few more weeks, our scouts have used that time to work on one of their Eagle Scout required merit badges, Communications. We hope to begin meeting in person again and have a busy spring planned with outdoor activities. If you are interested in learning more about Troop 991 or want information about joining, please visit www.troop991.com. Thanks to Ravensworth and surrounding communities for supporting our scouts!



Editor's Note: Thanks to Ravensworth's Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for delivering The Ravensworth Farmer each month.

NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

The RFCA, Community of Christ Church, and the Boy Scouts would like to give a great big Thank You to all who gave so generously to fill the shelves at ECHO. You donated thirty, yes 30!, bags of groceries for those in need.




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RAVENSWORTH POOL REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Summer is coming soon and registration for Ravensworth Pool season 2021 has begun.

As the vaccine rolls out nationwide, we are optimistic that pools will be allowed to continue operating in Phase III (open swim with guidelines) conditions and are planning accordingly for the entire swim season. The pool’s operating procedures for Phase II and III are available on our website to view at www.ravensworthfarmpool.com. Last year we successfully were able to operate without any COVID-19 outbreaks.

Our current plan is to have a swim team for both age groups and a dive team. Information on a learn to swim program is currently being worked out and will be communicated through emails.

The pool will be open for members starting Memorial Day weekend. We do not plan to rent out the pool as we expect more folks will be able to join the pool this year. As it is important for us to plan for another unusual swim season, we are encouraging members to join earlier this year. While we do not expect to have similar membership as 2019, we hope to better predict membership levels to provide you more information as early as possible.

The first early bird rate is on March 30 so be sure to register!

Early Bird Deadlines	Family	Two Person	Seniors
Until March 30th	\$525	\$375	\$300
April 1st - May 5th	\$550	\$390	\$320
May 6 and later	\$575	\$405	\$330

While there is normally a one-time new member/reactivation charge to renew your account if you were not a member or did not pay a deposit the previous year, we are waiving this \$50 charge until March 30 due to the unusual circumstances of 2020.

We are doing our very best to ensure that we have a successful 2021 swim season. We sincerely appreciate all your support. Timely additional information will always come out through our membership emails. If you currently do not receive them or would like more information about joining the pool, please contact Jen Auble at membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com.

CONDOLENCES

To Diwakar Sharma on the death of his father in December.





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ALMOST SIX DECADES IN RAVENSWORTH FARM ON ELLET ROAD

Dave Lindsey, who has lived on Ellet Road since August 1963, said he initially put money down on another house in Woodbridge. But when his wife Joan saw a Ravensworth Farm model home on Queensberry Avenue near the intersection with Braddock Road just a week later, she liked the houses in this neighborhood better. Plus, this neighborhood was much closer to the busier portions of the Washington area than Woodbridge.

Since all married men understand that pleasing one's wife is of paramount importance, the couple purchased a Ravensworth home instead. When Dave sought to have his down payment for the Woodbridge house returned, he was told that was not a possibility. Turning 94 years old in March 2021, Dave laughs as he reflects on this memory. He says that he didn't care about losing the deposit and that moving to the Farm was indeed the better choice.

His nearly six decades of residence here as an original owner confirm what a good choice he made. With financing courtesy of the G.I. Bill for World War II troops, this former Navy man was able to swing the purchase. More than 57 years later, he has no regrets about making his life here in our community with his wife Joan and son Mark.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Dave worked as a meter reader for Virginia Electric and Power Company (VEPCO) and even read the meter for one of the properties on the site of the old Ravensworth mansion, which would've been where Port Royal Road is now located in the industrial park behind our subdivision. At that time, there was, of course, no Ravensworth Farm, just woods. But he was aware that suburban tract housing was being planned for this area of Fairfax County.

Married eleven years earlier, Joan and Dave in June 1963 liked the rambler style of house in Ravensworth and bought their Ellet Road home, near the intersection with Ringold Place, when it was only a brick shell with no windows or doors. No concrete had yet been poured for the basement floor. Most of the neighborhood was not yet started—several holes had been dug where houses would later sit—and most of the streets were unpaved. In fact, Ellet itself was still a dirt road at the time of the Lindseys' visit, so the development company's salesperson parked at the intersection with Queensberry and the group walked uphill to the property in which the couple was interested.

Three months later that summer, the husband and wife along with their son Mark, age seven, moved in. Joan passed away in 2010, and father and son were kind enough to be interviewed in December 2020 for this story.

Born in Lexington, North Carolina, Dave came to Northern Virginia from the Tarheel State in 1940 when he was a teenager so his father could take a job at the Washington Navy Yard. He then took another position at the torpedo factory on the waterfront in Old Town Alexandria, long before it was a studio and gallery for artists. The family lived in the Alexandria community of Chinquapin Village, developed especially for torpedo factory employees and their families.

As a boy, Dave worked at a drug store on King Street and also partnered with friends to collect newspapers and turn them in for cash to help the war effort. He also brought pots and pans because copper was needed. He attended George Washington High School, which has since been turned into a middle school by the city of Alexandria.

At 17, Dave joined the Navy in 1943. After leaving the military in 1946, Dave worked for VEPCO as a meter reader for two and a half years. He then joined Chesapeake & Potomac (C&P) Telephone, where he stayed until 1981 when he retired following 34 years of service. While at C&P, he worked in the business office and as a technician who installed phones in homes. Dave says he also hooked up the public address system for Annandale High's football stadium so the crowd could hear the announcer. Over the years, he put in many overtime hours, a necessity in a telephone company. At times, he was asked to work for days on end.

In 1952, Dave married Joan, whom he'd met as another employee in the C&P business office, and they moved first to the Westover section of Arlington and later to the Auburn Village area of Alexandria near Potomac Yard, which was once a large train railyard but is now a group of shopping centers and apartment complexes. Mark was born in 1954.

Con't from Pg. 7

In their early Ravensworth years during the mid-1960s, the family would shop at the Giant grocery stores in Springfield and Annandale because the Ravensworth shopping center, with its Safeway, had not been completed. The family would also sometimes patronize such local institutions that no longer exist, including Fischer Hardware in Springfield and Kerlin's Corner in Annandale.

The long-gone Three Chefs restaurant in downtown Annandale was popular not only for diners, but also for radio listeners. Mark remembers a Fairfax-based radio station, WEEL 1310 AM, hosting "Homework Hour" at the restaurant. Kids could call in with a homework question on which they needed help and the radio host, outfitted with a blackboard and chalk, would try to get answers from listeners on the air and people who'd come out for dinner.

When Mark was a child, parents would block off Ellet Road to cars when it snowed so that kids could sled downhill on its formidable slope. Dave even bought a special sleigh for the children to use and he still owns the sleigh.

Other memories include the Churchman family on the same street each year turning the front of their home into an amazing haunted house for Halloween, dressing up the family dog in a Halloween costume, enjoying fireworks displays in Springfield, and gathering tadpoles at Lake Accotink. Both men remember the lake being drained in the late 1960s because construction of the neighborhood had caused a great deal of silt to enter the water. Drainage took four days and everyone in Ravensworth was paying attention.

Additional recollections are stopping for trains on Backlick Road before a bridge allowed traffic to continue unimpeded, checking out construction of downtown Springfield's version of a skyscraper, and watching the celebrated traveling of Southern Railroad's steam locomotive 4501 as it navigated the trestle at the Lake Accotink park.

Mark also remembers one day seeing a huge, black cloud coming over the neighborhood. He followed the cloud to its source by driving over to Little River Turnpike. On land near what is now the home of the Audrey Moore recreation center, a major fire raged at the electricity transformer station there.

There was also the infamous blizzard of 1966 that dumped more than two feet of snow on the area, closing schools for two weeks. The storm created a drift on one side of the Lindsey home that went up a significant portion of the chimney.

Mark attended Ravensworth Elementary and Poe Intermediate. He started high school as a Spartan at West Springfield but graduated as a Ram at Robinson in the class of 1974. One of his friends was among the four murder victims of the notorious March 1976 killings at a Roy Rogers restaurant on Little River Turnpike in the Lincolnia area of Alexandria. Five people were shot in the head by a man who rounded up people in the restaurant late one night and demanded they go into the freezer; one woman survived. The horror of the event shocked and transfixed the Washington area. The murderer was later sentenced to multiple life sentences.

A more pleasant and funnier memory concerns Dave's one-year service as a neighborhood-watch patrolman. Men from the community would drive around the subdivision at night to look for and report suspicious activity. Dave remembers that one night his patrol car was called to the Ravensworth pool. What did they find? Teenagers who'd broke in to the pool to go skinny-dipping.

"I am so happy to be living here," said Dave. "It's a great family community. I've made a lot of friends. I wouldn't change it for anything."

ISO A RFCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association Board is in search of members to participate on a committee responsible for searching out and nominating a slate of candidates for the RFCA Board positions. The election of board members occurs each May at the Annual Membership meeting, which, this year, will be held on May 27, 2021.

The responsibility of the committee will be to review the responsibilities of each of the offices, search for candidates, and present the slate at the March General Membership Meeting, to be held March 25, 2021. For those interested in running for any of the positions, you may nominate yourself to the committee or at the May Meeting. Also, anyone may nominate someone from the floor if the nominator has the approval of the person being nominated.

If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact Ginger Rogers at grogers@verizon.net or by phone on 703-321-1151.

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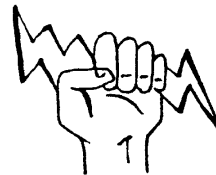
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Ravensworth Resident

WHAT'S GOING ON AT RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY

by Sara Ortiz

Marcie Winitt started out our recipe swap in November with her recipe for Pumpkin Chocolate Chip cake, then we had my mom's Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies. Now Ruth Hartman, long-time Farmer and original owner, shares her Jumbo Raisin Cookies. She says she took these cookies to Ravensworth Farm, church, and other gatherings over many years. Now it's time for other Farmers to step up and share. Recipes other than baked goods are also welcome. Send your recipes to rfcafarmer@ravensworthfarm.org.



Recipe: Ruth Hartman's Jumbo Raisin Cookies

Ingredients:

1 c. seedless raisins
 1/2 c. water
 1/2 tsp baking soda
 1/2 c. Crisco
 1 c. sugar
 2 eggs, slightly beaten
 2 c. sifted flour
 1 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp baking powder
 1/2 tsp cinnamon

Directions:

Cook raisin and water for 3-5 minutes or until raisins are soft. Add baking soda and let stand. Cream Crisco and sugar in a bowl, add eggs and mix well. Sift flour, salt, baking powder, and cinnamon. Add sifted dry ingredients and cooked raisins and water to egg mixture. Mix well. Drop by teaspoon on a greased pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 12 minutes.

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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- 703-626-9087 or elissa@elissamyers.com.

NEW NEIGHBORS

New folks move in all the time. 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 rfcfarmer@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* .

DECORATED CAKES	Teen Farmer will decorate cakes or cupcakes for your event or party or just for fun. One to five dozen cupcakes or one to three cakes per event. Advance notice necessary to work it in around school. Text or call Rebekah at 703-321-8757 with questions or to receive a link to cake albums.
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 (no kings), dressers, kitchen tables & chairs, sofas (under 84 inches), love seats, end tables, lamps, sheets, blankets, pillows, working flat TVs and microwaves and 9x12 clean rugs. (No sleep sofas.) Contact Annandale Christian Community for Action for pick up by emailing Bill Sinclair at billsinclair2@verizon.net or Mary Lee Dispirito at ddmld@verizon.net .

ORIGINAL OWNERS - LOOKING BACK ON NEARLY SIX DECADES IN RAVENSWORTH

Original Ravensworth Farm owner Sheila Bouchard will celebrate 58 years in our neighborhood next year. In November 2020, she was kind enough to sit down for an interview about her decades-long experience living in her Inverchapel Road home at the crest of the hill between the two intersections with the horseshoe portion of Hatteras Lane.

Sheila Bouchard's journey to Ravensworth Farm began in northern New Jersey, where she grew up before coming to the Washington area to major in nursing at Georgetown University. After getting her degree, Sheila worked for a couple of years at the Georgetown University hospital.

While in school, she met Joseph, known to everyone as Joe. Joe was getting his start in the newspaper business. In this industry, he worked at the Army Times, the Baltimore Sun and ultimately the Washington Post as a night news editor. Working in the wee hours and sleeping by day, Joe was there during the explosive Watergate scandal and even worked with reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein on their articles that led to President Nixon's resignation in 1974.

Joe was born in a small Canadian town 200 miles north of Quebec City called Pointe-au-Pic and he was fluent in French. His family came to Washington when Joe was just three years old. His father served as a chauffeur and his mother as a cook at the French Embassy.

When Sheila and Joe first married, they moved to an apartment in Falls Church. After having two children, they decided in early 1963 that it was time to buy a house.

Sheila and Joe looked at a home in the Red Fox Forest subdivision in Annandale further out Braddock Road but decided the monthly payment of \$150 was too expensive. They had come across Ravensworth Farm after driving around in search of a house and decided the \$127 monthly payment here was affordable for them. They purchased a house here for \$23,000.

Initially, the couple sought one of the Inverchapel homes abutting the Accotink property so they could enjoy a lake view. Those houses had all been sold, however. In fact, the house the Bouchards finally bought had a contract on it when they first saw it, but the contract fell through and became available for them.

The family moved in on April 1, 1963. Sons Mike and Jerry were already born and Sheila was pregnant with Megan, who would enter the world in August that year. Another daughter, Kelly, was born a few years later.

At the time the Bouchards moved in, the house was not fully painted and Joe asked for another coat to be applied after some anticipated blustery weather. The developers didn't wait and the white paint was suddenly brown because of all the dirt that had been kicked up.

Starting in the late 1960s, Sheila worked part-time as a nurse in an Alexandria doctors' office, where she stayed for 40 years. She obtained the position after answering a newspaper ad and later brought Ravensworth friends into the office for other part-time positions. These fellow community residents included original owners profiled in previous Ravensworth Farmer profiles: Doddie Cave and Bev Schubert. Another original owner who has since passed away, Sara Barringer, worked in the same office. Sheila also worked at Fairfax Hospital briefly when it was only one building and not the megacomplex it is today. She says that she was often considered the neighborhood nurse and children were brought to her by concerned parents for advice.

During the early years of the neighborhood in the 1960s, the families in Ravensworth Farm were usually headed by husbands who worked for the federal government or in the military. Most residents were young families with small children and friends were made through casual conversation on the street as well as kids' activities related to school, sports and the Ravensworth pool. Sheila reflected that there was much camaraderie among the parents because everyone was going through the same experience and neighbors frequently invited other families living nearby to come over for dinner or social gatherings.

Con't Pg. 18



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Con't from Pg. 14

Transportation was often undertaken in the station wagons of the era. The Bouchard car regularly brought many children to and from school each day at Holy Spirit and to all sorts of events and extracurricular activities.

Sheila noted that members of her family have gone to many local schools. Mike, the oldest of the Bouchard children, attended Ravensworth Elementary and later both West Springfield and Robinson high schools. The remaining three attended elementary school at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Annandale as well as Poe Intermediate and Annandale High. More recently, her grandchildren have attended high school at Thomas Jefferson, Lake Braddock and Annandale.

In the early years of Ravensworth Farm, shopping excursions to the mall at Seven Corners were a big deal; Sheila was a fan of the high-end department store Garfinckel's, which, like so many Washington institutions, no longer exists. In addition, the Bouchard family would spend time in Georgetown at the home of Joe's parents. They also would take vacations at the Jersey Shore and in Ocean City, Maryland; the family would even occasionally drive 1,700 miles round-trip to Joe's hometown in Quebec to visit his relatives.

While Joe coached sports teams like Little League T-ball, baseball and basketball, all four of the Bouchard children were active with the Ravensworth pool's swim team. Megan was a baton twirler and participated in a Lions Club marching band for children that hosted occasional parades in the neighborhood. Later, Megan was a cheerleader for the Annandale Atoms and Kelly was active in many high school sports. Friday night football games at Annandale High School were popular with the entire Bouchard family.

Over the years, Sheila kept busy as a room mother and occasional nurse at Holy Spirit, as well as a volunteer for the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, including serving as a block captain to distribute the neighborhood directory and helping to assemble issues of the Ravensworth Farmer newsletter. She recalled that the sheets of the newsletter would be put out on a long dining room table and people would walk around the table to arrange all the pages.

Sheila pointed out that her family's home was often a hub of activity with many neighborhood kids spending time at the house, in the yard or out in front of the house while playing in the street. Sledding through the hilly backyards between Inverchapel and Hatteras drew a lot of children in the early years before the yards were fenced in. Kids were allowed to take off to the lake or elsewhere in the neighborhood, and parents did not worry the way they might today.

The Lake Accotink park was always a popular destination for Bouchard family recreation. The kids had a canoe they would take to the lake. Another activity was ice skating near where the creek meets the lake. Once, Jerry brought home from the park a duck who was having trouble walking. The duck lived outside in the Bouchards' backyard for a while in an enclosure that also contained a doghouse.

One of Sheila's other memories from nearly 60 years in the same house is that the home has been struck by lightning three times. The first time this happened, she had seven children in the house—her own four and three others she was babysitting. Apparently, the electric current came through a window, set curtains on fire and began filling up a bedroom with smoke. Sheila ran to grab Kelly, who was a baby sleeping in a crib at the time, and then called both the fire department and her husband at work. She explains that the memory of the occurrence upsets her even today.

The second strike left a burn mark that still shows on one of her floors. When the power company came out to inspect, it was discussed that one possible explanation for the lightning's attraction to the Bouchard property might have something to do with metal items, like ammunition, buried by soldiers during the Civil War, since troops were active in the area.

Con't Pg. 19

Con't from Pg. 18

In the early 1990s, Joe passed away and Sheila wondered if she should continue to live in her six-bedroom, three-bathroom home. But she is glad she has stayed since Megan now lives a few doors down on Inverchapel and Jerry lives in the nearby Wakefield Chapel subdivision in Annandale. Mike and Kelly are farther away; the oldest son is in Annapolis and the youngest daughter in Colorado. Fortunately, Sheila's house is always busy with someone visiting.

These days, Sheila reflects that Ravensworth Farm has been a good place to raise children and that her home has been a successful investment, particularly because of its proximity to both the Beltway and Lake Accotink. As she reflects on her decades here, she says she is delighted to have lived in such a wonderful community that has given her and her family so many lovely experiences.

READ SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK!

The current editor of The Ravensworth Farmer has been doing the job for eight years and was ready to step down even before she began supervising virtual school. Can you step in and fill this position? This is a great position for people who like to know what is going on in the neighborhood. A yearly stipend is available.

The editor:

- Collects information from community groups, clubs, committees, and neighbors by email
- Searches out relevant or interesting information to include in The Farmer
- Proofreads and edits community submissions
- Attends a monthly board meeting (Wednesday evenings) and three annual Civic Association meetings (Thursday evenings).
- Writes articles based on the content of some of the meetings
- Sends a complete file of the information to the formatter
- Develops the annual schedule for formatting, printing and delivery of the Farmer
- Works with RFCA Board to produce annual schedule of events for community
- Answers questions by email and phone regarding The Ravensworth Farmer
- Necessary skills include good writing, good organization, email, MS Word or similar. No formatting skills are required.
- The job usually takes 12-14 hours per month, with 4-6 hours of that being in a 1-4 day period.

If interested, please contact Sara Ortiz (rfcafamer@ravensworthfarm.org or 571-331-9138) or Marcie Winitt (prez@ravensworthfarm.org).

HELP WANTED



**Ravensworth Farm's
Appreciation Day
EVERY TUESDAY**

**Present this flyer AT Kilroy's and get 20%
off your total purchase**

Not valid with other offers or discounts

Dine in only

Not valid on Happy Hour Specials

Not including alcohol

5250 Port Royal Rd. Springfield, Va. 22151

703-321-7733

Ravensworth Farm Pool Register Today!

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

"I love this pool. The community is warm and welcoming and the kids have made lifelong friends here, as have I!" - Heidi

"We joined the pool in 2010/11. We absolutely love being members there. They have a phenomenal swim and dive team, excellent lifeguards, and a wonderful pool compound. There are also wonderful activities held throughout the swim season. You feel like you're a part of a family. We are sad every time it closes for the season, but eagerly look forward to opening day!" - Lisa

"I drove past your pool and the pool and grounds look amazing! We have 4 kids so we wanted to have a nice playground and grounds. Most of the others we drove to see were not nearly as nice as yours!" - Paige

Submit your testimonial by emailing membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com

We love our pool ♥ the kids have so much fun! -Sheilait



- ✓ **Swim Team**
- ✓ **Dive Team**
- ✓ **Learn to Swim Program**
- ✓ **Playground**
- ✓ **Mushroom Kiddie pool**
- ✓ **Snack bar**
- ✓ **Volleyball Courts**
- ✓ **BBQs**
- ✓ **Fun activities all summer long!**



Questions?

Contact Jennifer Auble at

Membership@ravensworthfarmpool.com

NEWS AT RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY

by Erika Aspuria, Principal

On February 2nd, the School Board agreed to move forward with the Return to School Plan that returns students into the building on the following timeline:

Student Groups	Student In-Person Start	Teacher Preparation
Group 5 Kindergarten	February 23	Completed
Group 6 Grades 1 & 2	March 9	March 4-5
Group 7 Grades 3 - 6	March 16	March 11-12

As shared in the fall, once we return students to the building we will be using concurrent instruction. Concurrent means that the teachers will be teaching students in person and at home simultaneously. We will have technology set up in the classrooms to support this teaching method. This means that students who elect in-person instruction will receive two days of teacher-led instruction in the school building and two days of teacher-led instruction at home. This will be another new teaching method for our staff and it will take time for them to become comfortable. We anticipate that we may run into challenges. We are working to ensure this is as smooth a transition as possible.

Grades 1 and 2 will have a teacher workdays March 4th and 5th. Grades 3-6 will have teacher workdays March 11th and 12th. These days are to prepare for in person instruction. Asynchronous work will be provided on these days.

We are excited to welcome our students back to the building. There will be a great deal of information coming out to make sure we have a successful Return to School. We will do our best to repeat information so it isn't missed.

For more updates or to see what is happening at Ravensworth, please follow us on:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RavensworthElementary> and

Twitter <https://twitter.com/RavensworthES>

YOUR INFORMATION NEEDED

Please send along the address (and name, if you know it) for new neighbors, new babies, or deaths. New neighbors' names (adult or infant) will only be reported in The Ravensworth Farmer with their permission. If you are a new neighbor and haven't received a visit from Cindy Cho of the New Neighbor Committee, please let her know you are here at choc64@gmail.com.

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY UPDATES

Is your listing in the neighborhood directory still accurate? If not, please send an update to Steve Beste, the directory editor. 703-321-9110 or email Directory@RavensworthFarm.org If you haven't seen a 2021 directory yet, join the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association at <http://pay.ravensworthfarm.org> or by calling Elissa Myers at 703-626-9087.

ODD-JOBS, YARD WORK, AND MORE

If you're looking for a bit of help around the yard or house or someone to walk your dog, remember to check the Youth Services listing in the Ravensworth Farm Directory. It contains a list of your younger neighbors who would like to help out and earn some money, too. Kids 12 and up, if you would like to be included in the Youth Services section of next year's directory, email directory@ravensworthfarm.org with a parent's phone number and in which categories you would like to be listed.

"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 rfcafamer@ravensworthfarm.org. Thanks for sharing!

*"I CAN GET IT WORKING AGAIN
OR
FIND YOU A BETTER USED MACHINE"*



Tune-ups: \$79.99 plus parts
(Lawn Tractors \$155.95 plus parts)

Lawn Mowers - Lawn Tractors
Weed Eaters - Power Washers
Chain Saws
and much more

**Bryant's Lawnmower Repair
And Tune-ups**
18 years experience

5532 Queensberry Avenue
— In Ravensworth Farm —

Call Coey Bryant 571-244-5760

**House &
Apartment
FOR RENT**



House

The house is listed on airbnb under Simpers retreat house, it was part of the underground railroad. It is located on an active farm with diverse livestock in scenic Delaplane. The house is nestled among historical landmarks and rolling valleys and forested mountain sides teeming with wild life. Located in the vicinity of various wineries sleeps 10-12 people.

Beach House & Apt

Also have a beach house and apt for rent at Rehoboth Beach.

**Contact—Kathy Strother
(540) 303-6694 or (703) 321-9757**

Boy Scout Flag-Service Fundraiser

- ★ Support your local scout unit (Troop 829) in raising camp funds.
- ★ For a reasonable donation, our scouts will display a large American flag in your yard on four national holidays.
- ★ They will set up the flag at sunrise and retrieve it at sunset.

The donation for this service is a tax deductible \$40

This service takes place on the following holidays:

- President's Day 2021
- 4th of July 2021
- Memorial Day 2021
- Labor Day 2021

Payment Options for Check or Cash (drop off or pick up only):

<p>Mail or Drop Off: BSA Troop 829 8319 Queen Elizabeth Blvd. Annandale, VA 22003</p>	<p>Arrange a pick up: Email Troop829Flags@gmail.com or Call 703-323-6584 to schedule a Scout to come by and pick up your donation.</p>
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- Please detach the section below and send it with your donation -

Please sign me up! I support these Scouts!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



Amount Paid:	Subscription: <input type="checkbox"/> \$40	** Other donations also welcome!
	Other: <input type="checkbox"/> _____	

Please make check payable to: Troop 829 NCAC-BSA

Thank you for your generous support!