



MANDR HOUSE 1796-1925
RAVENSWORTH PLANTATION, VA.

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

October 2021

The Ravensworth **Farmer**

Issue 1

STUFF THE BUS FOOD DRIVE

Braddock District residents donated 44,320 pounds of food during our last three Stuff the Bus food drives. The \$73,000 worth of food donations is a tangible demonstration of our community's generosity and spirit. But now we need to do it again!

According to the Feeding America Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity projections (published March 29, 2021), the food insecurity rate in Fairfax County is 7.4%, up from 5.8% in 2019. That means about 86,716 people don't have access to sufficient food because of limited financial resources. Together, we can make sure that families in our community have warm and nutritious meals tonight.

Our next Stuff the Bus Food Drive will take place both on **Saturday, October 9, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Braddock District office (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia 22015), the Oaks Community Center (5708 Oak Leather Dr, Burke, VA 22015), and 19 additional locations throughout Fairfax County.** By donating, you can help fight hunger and feed hope here in our community. I hope to see you there! For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/FfxStufftheBus>

For updates, including donation locations, most requested food items, and more, sign up for the Braddock District Email List by visiting <https://conta.cc/2XqJBMm> or by emailing my office at Braddock@Fairfaxcounty.gov.

-Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw



The RFCA continues our search for the following positions:

Recording Secretary - Currently held by Ginger Rogers for 10 years; the person in this position will take notes during board and general membership meetings.

Advertising for the Farmer - OPEN

Advertising for the Directory - OPEN

Please contact Marcie Winitt (pg. 2) for additional information or to volunteer.



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 1733, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Marcie Winit	703-678-9074	prez@ravensworthfarm.org
1st Vice President	John Ritchie	703-321-8427	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	Kristoffer Hull	703-517-8471	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
Farmer	Incoming Editor	Shobha McConnell	703-973-8994 ravensworth.farmer@gmail.com
	Preparation	Susan Deyampert	703-321-3150
	Advertising, Flyers	John Ritchie	703-321-8427 treasurer@ravensworthfarm.org
	Distribution	Vince DeCoursey	703 850-9392 rdecourseyjr@verizon.net
	Advertising	Katherine Craig	703-321-3149 ads@ravensworthfarm.org
Community Organizations			
PTA President, Ravensworth ES	Megan Farinholt		president@ravensworthpta.org
Pool President	Dan VanBrunt		president@ravensworthfarmpool.com
Green Thumb Garden Club	Karen Aftergut		

Association Meetings & Deadlines 2021-22

MONTH	BOARD MEETING/FARMER DEADLINE/FLYERS DUE	<i>Farmer</i> DELIVERY	EVENTS
October	6	30/31	October 28 - General Membership Meeting
November	3	20/21	
December	1		
January	5	29/30	
February	2	26/27	
March	2	26/27	March 24 - General Membership Meeting
April	13	May 7/8	
May	4	21/22	May 19 - General Membership Meeting

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.

RAVENSWORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATES

by Erika Aspuria, Principal

Ravensworth opened its doors to students on August 23rd. We are excited to have students back 5 days a week and in-person. Our bell schedule is 8:35 am – 3:20 pm. We anticipate an increase in our Kiss and Ride this year. We appreciate your patience as we safely get students in and out of cars.

This year we welcomed several new staff members:

Ana Salvador – Grade 3 Teacher
 Daniel Kye – Grade 4 and Grade 6 Spanish Immersion Teacher
 Maria Enriquez – Grade 4 Spanish Immersion/ Grade 4 Teacher
 Christina Del Rio – Grade 6 Teacher
 Erin Kauffman – School Psychologist
 Ashley Glenn – Special Education Teacher
 Mariam Lee – Special Education Teacher
 Nicole Leger – ESOL Teacher
 Courtney Toth – Special Education Instructional Assistant
 Makayla Walker – Preschool Special Education Instructional Assistant
 Sady Malik – STEAM Instructional Assistant

#RavensWorth

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DROP-OFF REMINDERS

Please adhere to all traffic laws on Nutting Drive and do not block the driveways of residents if you choose to park your car and walk your child to or from school. Recently, a neighbor on Nutting Dr. across from the school had trash cans knocked over, spilled and broken by a driver parking in front of their home to pick up kids at the school. Trash has also been dropped in yards and garbage cans moved to accommodate drivers using Nutting Dr. and adjacent streets for school parking. Please respect your neighbors and their properties when parking in front of their homes.

RAVENSWORTH TROOP 991 ACCEPTING NEW SCOUTS!

If you have a 6th grader (and at least 10 years old) who is interested in learning more about scouts we'd love to show you around Troop 991! Our scout troop has been part of our Ravensworth community for over 60 years and has graduated over 100 Eagle Scouts. We are an active, boy led troop that typically camps once a month, along with other activities. During the past year and a half of the pandemic our troop was able to follow safety protocols and kept active, providing the boys with a much needed opportunity for friendship and outdoor activities! This summer we had an awesome week of summer camp at Goshen Scout Reservation and have a great year of activities planned. If you are interested in learning more about our troop please contact Bill Thewes, Scoutmaster, at bsatrop991sm@gmail.com. We meet most Wednesday evenings at the Community of Christ Church on Inverchapel Road from 7 - 8:30 p.m.

NEIGHBORHOOD DIRECTORY UPDATES

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

Jubilant Tots

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- ◆ Hours: 7:30-6:00
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Shringar Rana
571-338-3958
ravensworthome@gmail.com



No Registration Fee !!
for our neighbors !!!

BUY NOTHING PROJECT: GIVE. ASK. GRATITUDE.

What do you usually do with the extra stuff lying around your house? Do you drop it off at Goodwill? Do you give it to strangers on Freecycle or Craigslist? Do you put it out with the trash? I truly believe that one person's trash is another person's treasure.

Within our wonderful community is a hyper-local Facebook group where you can give, receive, and share almost anything with your neighbors... for FREE.

Have you ever wished you could give your surplus items to people in your own neighborhood? Joining a "gift economy" is a great way to get to know your neighbors and build a sense of hyper-local community. If this sounds like you, the Buy Nothing Ravensworth/North Springfield/(Edsall Park), Springfield, VA group on Facebook might be right for you!

The goal of this group is to give where you live. It's what builds community. Give freely. Share the bounty! Post anything you'd like to give away, lend, or share with your neighbors. Ask for anything you'd like to receive for free or borrow. We keep it legal and civil. There's no buying, selling, trading, bartering, or soliciting for cash. It's an adult-only gift economy, not a charity or community bulletin board.

Another thing that sets this group apart from others is that it is not necessarily first come, first serve. Many givers allow their posts to "simmer" for at least a few hours to give folks who don't have access to Facebook all day (like hospital workers, postal service workers, teachers, etc.) a chance to be chosen for a gift. It's the neighborly thing to do! Of course, if you are moving, deeply involved in a clean-out project, don't have space, etc., we understand that you want stuff gone ASAP... and that's welcome as well.

Here are some examples of what we do in our Buy Nothing community:

Gift: Would anyone like these bananas?

Ask: I'm making a recipe that calls for a banana and just realized I don't have one on hand; does anyone have a spare?

Gratitude: Thank you, neighbor, for sharing your bananas!

Unlike in other groups, Buy Nothing givers are not limited to sharing only goods. Anyone can share or ask for a (free, of course) gift of service, time, or talent. To give you a better idea...

Gifts of service:

Can someone please deliver me a bunch of bananas?
I'd like to make someone banana bread!

Gifts of time:

Let's go out together and get a banana split!
Would anyone like to join me on my deck for a banana split? My treat!

Gifts of talent:

Will someone please teach me how to make banana bread?
I'd like to teach a class on how to make homemade banana bread. Would anyone like to join?



If this speaks to you, please consider joining us. We're currently 450+ members strong, and, as a Ravensworth Farmer and one of the volunteer admins for the group, I can personally say that it's a very thoughtful and generous group. I cannot tell you how many connections I've made in this community in the last year or so of being part of it.

To join the Buy Nothing Ravensworth/North Springfield/(Edsall Park), Springfield, VA group, please visit the following link or follow the QR code (above) and fill out the three membership questions: bit.ly/BNnspringfield

You're also welcome to reach out to me directly with any questions. You can find me in the group at the link above.

Cheers!
Morgan Tucker Shore



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A NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTION OVER THE AIRWAVES AND OVER THE YEARS

By Robert Blizzard

If you're a National Public Radio (NPR) fan—perhaps tuning in during your commutes to and from work—then you well know the voice of Dave Mattingly, who has anchored the morning newscasts for the past seven years. From him, you hear the headlines from around the world and key stories of the day. He has worked for the media giant, based in the nation's capital, for 26 years now.

What you may not know is that Dave is the son of Ravensworth Farm original owners and grew up in our community. Mary and Don Mattingly lived in Falls Church before buying a home on Gosport Lane in 1962. His father lived there until his death in 2018.

"I used to visit my father and some of our old neighbors until he died three years ago. When I drive through Ravensworth Farm now, it always makes me smile and floods my brain with fond memories. It was a great place to grow up," recalled Dave in a May 2021 interview.

Dave's parents were from Maryland—his father from Indian Head and his mother from Mount Vernon on the Eastern Shore. They met while at Salisbury State College (now Salisbury University) in Maryland. The couple married in 1953 and had three sons: Don, Kelly and Dave. They later divorced in the 1980s and Dave's mother moved to Leesburg, Virginia, where she lived for many years before passing away in 1999.

"My parents chose our house on Gosport Lane because my mom loved the 200+ year-old tree in the front yard. It didn't survive the neighborhood build-out and was taken down within a few years of my parents moving in," explained Dave. "My brother Don later found many Civil War bullets in the stump and dead tree wood—two of which I still have. We found a horseshoe when our dad built a patio in the backyard."

Dave's dad worked for IBM and later the Department of Interior before opening his own furniture businesses in the 1970s in Virginia; locations were in Manassas and Aldie. The one in Aldie is now owned and operated by Dave's older brother Don. Dave's mother worked with Fairfax County Public Schools as an elementary school front-office secretary for 24 years in Annandale, Springfield and Chantilly. All of the boys attended Ravensworth Elementary and Poe Intermediate. Meanwhile, Don attended Robinson High School, whereas Kelly and Dave attended Annandale High after Fairfax County redrew the school districts.

"Most of us who grew up in Ravensworth Farm look back and appreciate how fortunate we were," said Dave. "The neighborhood families all seemed to know each other and get along well. The kids played together a lot."

"We had big yards with trees—it was home, and it always felt safe from real-world problems," he continued. "Many summer evenings were spent playing kick the can, wiffle ball or hide-and-seek with the neighborhood kids. Our parents would let us walk or ride our bikes to Lake Accotink, the Ravensworth Farm pool or to Ravensworth Shopping Center without much concern about our safety."

Dave says some of the happiest times of his youth were spent playing basketball with friends on the eight-foot baskets at Ravensworth Elementary School's black-top. His parents' backyard abutted the school property.

"You would find me there seven days a week. Those were the most carefree days of my life. The eight-foot court was removed when the school gym was built in the 1980s. We were all sorry to see it go; it was the central hangout of our childhood," remembered Dave.

Dave also has pleasant memories of his time as a student at Ravensworth Elementary. One of his fondest memories was his first-grade teacher, Mrs. Corsepius, who taught math with Starburst-like candies known as Kits. At the end of each lesson, the kids were allowed to eat them. What seven-year-old wouldn't love that?

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Con't from Pg. 7

“In 2001, I had the opportunity to visit Ravensworth Elementary again through my wife’s job,” Dave reflected. “When the staff learned I had attended the school, they phoned Mrs. Corsepius; she was still substitute-teaching at Ravensworth Elementary. We spoke for a time and laughed at old memories. She seemed to recall some of our names from her all-boys class of 1970—that was a nice moment in time.”

Lake Accotink was always a popular place to play during Dave’s childhood. He points out that Civil War trenches still exist in the park.

“You have to know where to look,” explained Dave. “My brother Don is good at pointing them out. There’s a trench line along a trail and a battery position near Halleck Place. When you find the battery position, it makes sense. It overlooks what was then Accotink Creek from high ground. The trench line can be seen clearly in the winter. At least it could when I was there last, about a decade ago.”

Dave also ice-skated and played hockey on the ponds behind the church on Inverchapel Road during cold winters. He says his mother’s rule was that the temperature would have to remain below freezing for three consecutive days before she’d allow her sons to skate on the ponds.

“I took my two young sons to those ponds during the winter of 2005 to let them walk on the ice. It brought back some nice memories,” he said.

The legacy of our community remains with Dave to this day.

“One of the great things about Ravensworth Farm is the bond that still exists with the kids who grew up there in the 1970s and ‘80s. I’m still life-long friends with many,” he said. “Also, I played JV and varsity soccer at Annandale High. My soccer days started on the field at Ravensworth Elementary as a kid. I went on to coach all three of my children in Loudoun Soccer for the recreation and travel levels.”

When asked how growing up in Ravensworth might have led to his media career, Dave mused, “As a kid in Ravensworth, I recall listening to AM radio at night—taking note of the farthest-away radio station I could tune into. Those nights in my room when I would pick up AM stations in Chicago, Cincinnati or Buffalo were the best. I suppose that’s my earliest memory of a love of radio.”

Thank goodness for that connection made right here on the Farm that gave us anchorman Dave Mattingly sharing the globe’s most pressing news as we drive to work in the mornings. Almost literally, he is a presence in neighborhood listeners’ cars every day as we travel from Ravensworth to our jobs—a terrific bond over both the airwaves and the years.

YARD WASTE DELAYS AND MODIFICATIONS

Source: The Braddock Beacon, September 2021 Edition

The national shortage of CDL drivers continues and has, unfortunately, made it impossible for both private haulers and Fairfax County to collect yard waste consistently and on schedule. For the handful of neighborhoods in the Braddock District who are serviced by Fairfax County, we are experiencing delays that may continue into the foreseeable future. Please leave your yard waste at the curb and it will be collected as soon as possible.

For the vast majority of neighborhoods serviced by private haulers, Fairfax County has instituted a temporary change allowing haulers to collect yard waste with refuse collections. In other words, they are allowed to mix refuse and yard waste. This decision will be revisited in mid-October. As always, please consider alternative methods to minimize and manage your yard waste.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2021 - GENERAL AND SPECIAL ELECTIONS

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Voter Registration Deadline: October 12**
 - 5 p.m. in-person, 11:59 p.m. online, or postmarked by mail October 12
 - Register online through the State Elect portal at: <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation>
 - For a paper form visit Voter Forms at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/voter-forms>
- **Absentee Ballots Mailed: September 17**
- **Last Day to Request an Absentee Ballot: October 22 by 5 p.m.**
 - This deadline applies to both online submissions and in-person submissions
 - Visit the Vote by Mail website for more information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee-voting-mail>
- **Deadline for Return of Vote by Mail Ballots:**
 - November 2 by 5 p.m. if hand-delivered in-person
 - Postmarked by November 2 and received by noon on November 5 if by-mail
- **Early Voting In-Person: Begins September 17, ends October 30**
 - Visit Early Voting website for more information: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/early-voting>





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MORE THAN SIXTY YEARS OF FAMILY HAPPINESS IN RAVENSWORTH FARM

By Robert Blizard

When she was interviewed for this story in May 2021, Mary Ann Rish was looking back on exactly sixty years in Ravensworth Farm. She and her husband moved into their Bullock Lane house during May 1961.

The surrounding area was almost rural at the time and Mary Ann remembers that people who owned an old house near Wakefield Chapel had a stable of horses and would ride them through Ravensworth on occasion, even going up and down Bullock Lane more than once. But the community and the Rish family have experienced much growth since 1961.

Mary Ann and Robert “Bob” Rish married in 1953 at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in downtown Washington. She was from Washington, D.C. while he was from Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

The Rishes would ultimately have four children: Dorothy, nicknamed “Dottie,” who was six years old when the couple moved into Ravensworth; Bob, Jr., often called “Bobby,” who was an infant upon move-in; Julianne; and John. These days, Dottie, a retired nurse, lives near Winchester, Virginia; Bobby, who passed away from a brain tumor at age 59, was general manager of a hotel in Stafford, Virginia; Julianne, who is an elementary school teacher and mother of 11 children, makes her home near Leesburg, Virginia; and John, a regional manager with a hotel management group, resides in West Virginia.

Interestingly, both Rish girls have Ravensworth connections with their husbands. Dottie married George Anderton, who had grown up on Ringold Place. Julianne married Jim Bourne, a lifeguard who taught her in a lifesaving class at the Ravensworth pool when she trained to be a lifeguard.

The Rish family story begins during the Eisenhower Administration at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, where Mary Ann and Bob first met. Bob had tried being an accountant for a while and had used his G.I. Bill allowance to educate himself in that area; however, he decided later that he wanted a different career and began attending night school at American University. At his retirement, Bob was the Director of Administration for the Patent and Trademark Office.

While living in an apartment in Takoma Park, Maryland, the married couple decided that with the arrival of their second child in 1961, it was time for more living space. Bob had heard from co-workers about housing developments sprouting in Fairfax County and eventually “fell in love with the houses,” according to Mary Ann, after looking at some by the same developer in both Annandale and Springfield.

Because the couple had been pondering for years the purchase of a home and obtaining their first mortgage, they had been working to scrape together the “magic number” for a down payment. This wasn’t easy, Mary Ann pointed out, because the couple was paying for Bob’s American University tuition out-of-pocket. In those days, people seeking mortgages also had to demonstrate a certain salary level.

The couple ended up buying their Ravensworth house in April 1961 and moved in the next month. While considering the community, they were offered a choice of two homes on Bullock Lane but decided on their current home near Queensberry Avenue, rather than one closer to the pool.

All of the Rish kids except Dottie went to Ravensworth Elementary School, which was not opened until later in the 1960s. At six years old when the family first moved into the subdivision, the young girl benefited from a chance encounter during a car ride. The Rishes were driving through Annandale past St. Michael’s Catholic Church and its school one day and noticed a nun outside. Bob pulled in and asked her what it would take to enroll Dottie in the school. The nun asked what grade the child was in. When Bob told her that the girl would be entering second grade, the nun replied, “I teach second grade. She’s in!”

Con’t Pg. 14

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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)

ADVERTISE IN THE RAVENSWORTH FARMER

Reach more than 856 homes with news of your services or merchandise seven times over the 2020-2021 year. Contact Katherine Craig at ads@ravensworthfarm.org for information on permanent ads in the body of The Ravensworth Farmer.

If you just want to advertise a few months, you can include a simple flyer at the end of The Ravensworth Farmer by sending a .doc of your flyer and payment of \$70.80 (\$45 flyer cost + copying cost for 860 copies of the flyer at \$.03/page) to Ravensworth Farm Civic Association attn: John Ritchie before each month's flyer due date (see page 2). Flyer payment is by the month. Flyers will not be included the following month without new payment. You can reach John at 703-321-8427 or vp1@ravensworthfarm.org to coordinate payment.



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* .

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 – 571-331-9138
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 ddmlld@verizon.net.

Con't from Pg. 11

Ultimately, the children went to four different high schools: Dottie to West Springfield, Bobby to Annandale, Julianne to Bishop O'Connell in Arlington, and John to St. Paul VI in Fairfax (at the time). Mary Ann explained that the building where John went to high school had previously housed George Mason University's nursing program, where Dottie studied for her bachelor's degree. Starting in 1935, the building, according to the Washington Business Journal, housed Fairfax County High School until 1972 when it was sold to George Mason University. The university sold the building in 1983 to the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, which sold the space again to real estate developers in 2020.

"Everyone was so friendly in the early days. No one had air conditioning and in warmer weather, people would come outside to mingle in the evening. And kids were always playing in the street. It was so different from how things are today," reflected Mary Ann.

The pool is "where you met everybody and the adults socialized while the kids swam," she noted. She said there were no worries during that era about kids walking to school or going to play near Accotink Creek.

Mary Ann recalls that people would drive around the Beltway on a Sunday to take a leisurely drive as something for the family to do for fun because there were so few cars on the road. In addition, milkmen at the time would deliver dairy products to the home by placing them in a metal container on the back stoop.

One memory Mary Ann laughs about is the story of a picture taken by a neighbor serving in the Army. In the earliest days of the subdivision, Braddock Road was only two lanes wide and a small, abandoned rundown shack stood approximately where the entrance to the Audrey Moore recreation center now stands. Mary Ann believes it was associated somehow with the old Ravensworth mansion, perhaps as a derelict cabin for servants. In front of the decaying structure, an old tire swing hung from a tree by a rope. The neighbor took a photo of the shack and sent it to someone as a joke with an accompanying note saying that this was the house he'd bought in Ravensworth Farm.

At one point in the 1960s, before the Kings Park neighborhood was completed, the public transportation system announced that it would use Bullock Lane to turn around buses. This news upset residents of the street who lobbied to have this proposal quashed because they wanted their children to be able to play in the street without worry. One father claimed he would lie down in the street to prevent any buses from coming through.

Popular places to go for the Rish family included Shakey's Pizza in Annandale, which offered a player-piano allowing families to sing along while dining; Chesapeake Bay Seafood House, where kids ate for free; and a drive-in theater off Lee Highway near Merrifield where kids could play in the recreational area while wearing their pajamas. Mary Ann remembers that if you wanted to go to dinner at a fancy restaurant in the 1960s, you had to travel to Washington.

The couple only intended to stay about five years in the development but as time went by, the Bullock Lane house met everyone's needs so nicely. Mary Ann initially did not want to move farther out in the suburbs because Bob's night school at American University would have meant him getting home even later. Then, the opening of the community pool provided another reason to stay. Plus, when the couple looked at other houses, including in Kings Park, they felt what they had here in Ravensworth was just fine. The most important reason to stay in Ravensworth, however, was the children developing strong relationships with their friends, schools, and activities. Later, when the couple became "empty nesters" once their four children had moved out, the one-story rambler with no steps was beneficial to aging in place.

Mary Ann and the whole Rish family lost their patriarch when Bob died on Christmas Day in 2011 of a cerebral hemorrhage. Ten years later, Mary Ann now has 17 grandchildren, as well as one great-grandchild and two more on the way.

Con't Pg. 18

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Con't from Pg. 14

Reminiscing on six decades of life in our neighborhood, Mary Ann remembers a scene that still moves her years later. Walking through the development one autumn day in 1961 with Bobby in a stroller and Dottie alongside her, she felt a strong emotional connection to her new home. The only streets that had been paved and had houses with residents were those from Adair Lane to Drayton Lane; everything else in the neighborhood was still under construction. She says she looked south from the crest of the hill on what would become Nutting Drive and took in the view of the area where the elementary school would be built. Because the trees were turning color and the woody clearing was so peaceful, she thought to herself, "I've never seen anything so beautiful in my whole life!"

Sixty years later, Mary Ann is grateful for so much beauty and happiness that she has known as a resident of Ravensworth Farm since its very beginning.

IN MEMORY OF MARVIN A. BLIZARD, 1936-2021

Marvin Aldrich Blizard of Springfield, Virginia passed away on Wednesday, June 9. He was 85 years old and is survived by his wife of sixty years, Ann, and his son Rob.

The only child of Cecile and Aldrich Blizard, Marvin was born in 1936 in Kingsport, Tennessee. He graduated from Dobyns-Bennett High School and obtained his bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from East Tennessee State College. Marvin served in the Army Reserve and moved to the nation's capital in 1960 to work for the Naval Research Laboratory, where he served until 1970. He then worked as an underwater acoustics scientist at the Office of Naval Research in Arlington from 1970 to 1992, when he retired. Marvin also earned a master's degree focused on underwater acoustics from the Catholic University of America.

Ann and Marvin were married in Johnson City, Tennessee in 1960. They lived in Southwest Washington after they married and then relocated to Annandale, Virginia to live in an apartment complex then known as Americana Fairfax. In 1964, the two moved to their current home in Springfield, Virginia as original owners on Ravenel Lane in Ravensworth Farm. They celebrated their sixtieth anniversary last year via Zoom.

For a few years, Marvin was a member of the Virginia Task Force on Guardianship and Elder Abuse. In that capacity, he participated in improvements to the commonwealth's guardian statute in 1992. His interests included computers, genealogy, and cats.

DISCOVERING OUR NATION'S FIRST MONUMENTS: PART II -- THE SOUTHWEST LINE

By Roberto Bernate

There was a time when the geographic titles of "Washington, D.C." and the "District of Columbia" were not synonymous. On 23 December 1788 George Washington issued "Proclamation 1 – Defining the Boundaries of the District of Columbia," that "I do hereby declare and make known that the location of one part of the said district of 10 miles square shall be found by running four lines of experiment in the following manner, that is to say: Running from the court-house of Alexandria, in Virginia, due southwest half a mile, and thence a due southeast course till it shall strike Hunting Creek, to fix the beginning of the said four lines of experiment." The land within the "Lines" was to be named the Territory of Columbia. Soon after, Washington ordered Peter (Pierre) L'Enfant to design a plan for the Federal City within the Territory of Columbia roughly between the westernmost waterfront of Georgetown and the easternmost docks in Alexandria. It was not until several years later, within Washington's lifetime, that the Federal City formally christened "The City of Washington in the Territory of Columbia," later shortened to "Washington, District of Columbia."

The Southwest Line encompasses ten boundary stones between Jones Point Lighthouse south of Old Town Alexandria and the neighborhood of East Falls Church spanning the City of Alexandria, South Arlington County, and the City of Falls Church. Today these markers still partially delineate the borders between these two independent cities and Arlington County.

Con't Pg. 19

Con't from Pg. 18

South Cornerstone at Jones Point Lighthouse, City of Alexandria

This first stone was laid with grandiose Masonic ceremonies on April 15th, 1791 at Jones Point following merriment and a parade starting at Wise's Tavern at the corner of North Fairfax & Cameron Streets in Old Town continuing the mile to Jones Point where a temporary marker inscribed with "The Beginning of the Territory of Columbia" was laid. This stone was replaced in 1794 and then went missing in the mid-19th Century and rediscovered in the early 20th Century.

The South Cornerstone currently demarcates the border convergence of the City of Alexandria (Old Town) and Prince George's County, Maryland. Shoreline erosion has left the Washington, DC border junction almost 260 meters into the Potomac River over the centuries.

This stone is located behind the seawall of Jones Point Lighthouse facing Hunting Creek under the south entrance.

Southwest 1 Boundary Stone: 1220 Wilkes Street, City of Alexandria

This stone is the only of the forty whose location has remained in an incorporated area – Alexandria. Maps dating to the 1790s show this address as being part of the incorporated town of Alexandria.

It is in the northwest corner of the residence in the Southwest Quadrant area of Old Town on the corner of Wilkes & South Payne Streets. It was originally found to be broken and slumped over in the 1840s then repaired and slightly moved to its current location.

Southwest 2 Boundary Stone: 7 Russell Road, City of Alexandria

This boundary stone has an aura of the unknown surrounding the placement of this stone. It is offset by 0.31 miles to the southeast of where the original stone's placement has been determined to have initially been located. This stone is located adjacent to the Station Place Condominiums on Russell Road within sight of The George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

Remarkably, this stone is **NOT** an Original Federal Boundary Stone (as inscribed on Daughters of the American Revolution [DAR] plaque); nor is it the original stone; nor inscribed with any visible markings; nor is it the same stone type; or the same shape as all other intermediate or milestones; or the same color as all other intermediate or milestones; nor the same length, width, or height as all other intermediate or milestones; nor is it at a mile from preceding nor proceeding milestone; and finally it is NOT in the proper location either reported or plotted.

Southwest 3 Boundary Stone: 2932 King Street, First Baptist Church of Alexandria

This marker is located at the west parking lot entrance to the church. In the late 1800s and again in the early 1900s it was moved to accommodate the expansion of King Street (VA Route 7), then called the Leesburg & Alexandria Turnpike.

This marker is unique as it was the first stone laid offset of the calculated one-mile increment. The original inscription read it as "M302P." This is translated to "two miles and 302 poles" from the Initial or South Cornerstone at Jones Point. A "pole" is a surveying measurement equivalent to 16.5 feet. From these measurements, it can be determined that the distance between Southwest 3 and the South Cornerstone is 2 miles and 4,983 feet. The reason for this shortfall in distance lies in that a full three-mile distance would have planted the stone squarely in the Taylor Run ravine.

This marker was one of many of the forty boundary stones where, according to chief surveyor Major Andrew Ellicott in his New Year's 1793 "Lines of Experiment" report to the Commissioners assigned by George Washington to oversee the laying of the Territory of Columbia: "except as to a few cases where the miles terminated on a declivity or in water; in such cases, the stones are placed on the nearest firm ground, and their true distances in miles and poles marked on them."

Con't Pg. 22



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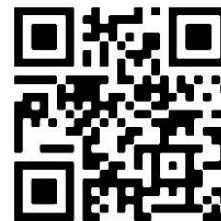


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Con't from Pg. 19

Southwest 4 Boundary Stone: Fairlington Mews Condominiums, Arlington

This is one of the most battered stones found in Virginia as its only remnant is a small stump protruding from the ground. In the late 1800s and again in the early 1900s it was also moved to accommodate the expansion of King Street. Lore from the 1800s tells of farmers unknowingly and repeatedly hitting the stone with plowshares reducing it to the nub existing today, a fate that also befell Southwest 5. In the early 1970s, Southwest 4 was permanently moved 13 feet to the north as further King Street widening threatened it to be permanently lost under the street. A fate that may have befallen the original Southwest 2 Boundary Stone.

Southwest 5 Boundary Stone: Lucky Run Trail, Southbound South Walter Reed Drive, Arlington/Alexandria

Southwest 5 is located just north of the intersection of King Street and South Walter Reed Drive adjacent to a Wells Fargo Bank branch. This stone has been moved to accommodate the expansion of King Street and it suffered similar degradation as Southwest 4 as the only above ground remnant is a slightly larger stump protruding from the ground. According to the nomination form for the National Register for Historic Places (NRHP) this stone was last moved due to the regrading of King Street which required it to be replaced at a location "44.90 1 from its original position."

Southwest 6 Boundary Stone: South Jefferson Street, Arlington/Fairfax

This is the most prominently displayed boundary stone in Virginia as it sits in the center median of South Jefferson Street nearest 3440 South Jefferson Street. This stone has had a tumultuous existence in the 20th century, enduring multiple replacements as Jefferson Street was widened as well as subject to an automobile strike in 1989 that left it in pieces. It has been professionally repaired and now sits in the median of busy South Jefferson Street. This is only one of two boundary stones in Virginia having been given an adjacent historical marker and one of only three of the entire forty having an associated historical marker.

Southwest 7 Boundary Stone: Carlin Springs Elementary School, Arlington/Fairfax

Southwest 7 is located between the fence line of the elementary school and the Woodlake Towers Condominium Community Garden. It is mostly intact though it is riddled with bullet scars and was reported as such as early as 1894, possibly used as target practice or as deliberate defacing by passing Confederate forces. The stones' proximity to Civil War outposts, Forts Buffalo, Ramsey (Upton Hill), and Munson's Hill, as well as documented skirmishes around Falls Church and Chantilly make this a likely scenario.

Southwest 8 Boundary Stone: Upton Hill, Arlington/Fairfax

This stone is located at 6198 Wilson Boulevard, currently the Patrick Henry Apartments. It is adjacent to a water tower and the apartment parking lot. This stone was lost at a point during the Civil War construction of Fort Upton, later called Fort Ramsey. It was located a generation later and repositioned. This is the second of two boundary stones in Virginia having been given an adjacent historical marker and one of only three of the entire forty having an associated historical marker.

Southwest 9 Boundary Stone: Benjamin Banneker Park, Arlington/City of Falls Church

This marker's official title is "SW-9 Intermediate Boundary Stone (milestone) of the District of Columbia." Southwest 9 Boundary Stone can be found at Benjamin Banneker Park, adjacent to the west park fence line along North Van Buren Street. It marks the delineation between Arlington County and the City of Falls Church.

This marker shares a commonality with the thirteen other Virginia boundary stones which are recorded in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and with the thirty-six extant boundary stones forasmuch as they are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Making this stone unique is it is the only boundary stone of the forty having a National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation - nominated by the Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation.

Con't Pg. 23

Con't from Pg. 22

The NHL designation was bestowed on the stone to honor the Sestercentennial (250th) birth anniversary of Benjamin Banneker in 1981. Benjamin Banneker Park previously encompassed portions of three different adjacent parks named "Four Mile Run Park" in Falls Church and "East Falls Church" and "Isaac Crossman Park" in Arlington.

The nomination of this stone as an NHL was contentious as to deciding on this stone to be the commemoration for Banneker – not due to merits, but the nomination board arguing this choice was "arbitrary" and that a better choice for a Banneker honorific would be to name the South Cornerstone or Initial Federal Boundary Stone after Banneker.

Access the Boundary Stone listing here:

<https://www.hmdb.org/results.asp?Search=Series&SeriesID=295>

At the link, in the upper right and left are options to either download a .kml file or to portray the location on Google Maps.

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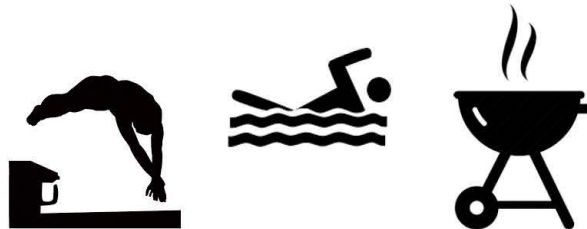
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