



Ravenna Community Newsletter

Issue 1
September 2015

Quarterly Newsletters!

Hello Neighbors! Welcome to the new Ravenna Community Newsletter! The Homeowner's Association Board will use this newsletter to keep residents informed of important and new topics that concern our community. We will try to keep information brief and informative in our newsletters but it is a great venue for communication.

Our current 2015 Board of Homeowners are as follows:

Bill Devens: President

John McIntyre: Vice- President

Lizz Story: Secretary

Kimberly Bryant: Treasurer

Tracie Sunvold: Member at Large

We will meet every other month to finish out the 2015 year and will switch to a new schedule in 2016 that will be posted on our community website and listed in the newsletter.

Our next homeowner's association meeting will be November 10th at 7pm at the Cedar Road Library. These meetings are a wonderful opportunity to meet the board and express any concerns that you may have. We welcome any and all homeowner involvement! If you need to reach us at any other time, please visit our community website (www.ravennahomeowners.net) and fill out the information under the Contact Us tab.

Thank you so much for your time!

~Ravenna Homeowner's Association Board~

Upcoming Events

Join us for our 6th annual Ravenna
Halloween Block Party!
Sunday, October 25th from 12-
4pm

There will be great food, cool inflatables, fun carnival games, a yummy cake walk, and a kid's costume contest with prizes. "Susan the Balloon Lady" will also be back to make her awesome balloon hats & tattoos. Invitations will be hung on your front door the first week in October. We would also love to hear if you have a talent you would like to share or if you have an idea for a new game or craft. In addition, we are looking for any high school age students that need volunteer hours and would like to help during the event.



**Feel free to call, text or email Jennifer Adams
anytime with questions or ideas.**

Text/Call 757.621.2355

Email: adams1104@verizon.net

Fall and General Community Reminders

September Landscaping - September and October are the months to prepare your lawn for the next year. Aeration, overseeding/reseeding, and fertilizing now are the keys to a beautiful lawn next spring. A schedule for fescue lawns is posted on the Ravenna web site.

Help your Neighbor - Besides being beautiful, ours strives to be a friendly, sociable, neighborhood. Please get to know your neighbors and help them out when you suspect a problem. If more than one paper shows up on their driveway, place them behind a bush so drive-bys cannot ascertain your neighbors are on vacation. If a garbage or recycle bin is left on the road, at least pull it to the curb. When new neighbors move in, introduce yourself, tell them about the Ravenna web site, and if you have the time, show them around the local area. It just makes for a much happier neighborhood.

Bradshaw Farm Property – The Bradshaw Farm property was bought by the City of Chesapeake and has temporarily been declared a conservancy until the city figures out what to do with the property. The house on the property is to be demolished. Until then, the city has committed to mowing the property on at least a quarterly basis.

New Landscape Contract – As of 1 July this year, Valley Crest is maintaining the Ravenna community property. You may have noticed the recent, vastly improved appearance. The Board of Directors re-competed the landscape contract this spring as a result of Basnight's rapidly deteriorating performance.

Standards Compliance

- **Grass clippings left on paved surfaces** – It is illegal according to the City of Chesapeake to leave any vegetation on the paved surfaces that would make its way into the drainage system. Grass clippings are a perfect example. The HOA will provide one warning to those homeowners who persist in leaving their grass clippings on the roadway, their driveway, or the sidewalks. After

that, pictures will be taken as evidence and they will be reported to the City of Chesapeake.

- **Grass in seam between curb and roadway** – Since roads are not within the purview of the HOA, the HOA cannot require homeowners to keep the seam between the curb and the asphalt clear of vegetation. However, failure to do so indicates a lack of pride in the appearance of the home and therefore is an indicator that greater scrutiny needs to be applied when assessing a home for violations.

- **Water Runoff in backyards with pools** – Chesapeake requires every homeowner with a pool ensure that no neighbors are affected negatively with additional water runoff from your property as a result of installing a pool. If you should happen to be an affected neighbor, the friendly action to take is to speak to your pool owning neighbor first about the problem. Should you receive no satisfaction, it is your prerogative to report the problem to the city.

- **Home Improvement Approval** - Ensure you obtain approval from the Ravenna Architecture Committee before starting any outside projects or modifying the exterior appearance of your home. Fines are as steep as \$500 and directing the property be put back into the condition before the "improvement" is an additional option. There is no grandfathering of home improvements. If you have made a modification or improvement and not received approval from the Architecture committee, you can be directed years down line to undo it by the existing Committee or a completely new Committee.

- **Speeding** – Speeding continues to be a neighborhood problem. A rather recent study provides evidence that this is the case (results of which are posted on the community website). The Police Dept is periodically being requested to set up speed traps within the neighborhood to help ameliorate the problem.

Want to know what is happening around Ravenna?

Be sure to register on our neighborhood website – **[Ravennahomeowners.net!](http://Ravennahomeowners.net)** This is a very informative resource regarding our neighborhood and local community. The website includes HOA meeting schedules, recent Newsletters/Meeting Minutes, a “Newcomer’s Guide”, Architectural Guidelines and upcoming events. Emails will be sent to registered members regarding important notices from our Chesapeake Police Dept, upcoming events or other important information that needs to be communicated to the neighborhood. In the past, we have been able to bring lost dogs back to their families and communicate an urgent safety matter via our website email blasts.

An updated guide to violations and the violation process will be posted to the website this Fall.

Note that emails will not be abundant and only sent if necessary. Your personal information will be kept confidential and can be “hidden” from the member directory. Feel free to call, text or email Jennifer Adams anytime with questions or concerns.

Text/Call 757.621.2355

Email: adams1104@verizon.net

New to the Neighborhood?

Come join us at Ladies Night! This is a casual, monthly get together usually held during the third week of the month. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors and socialize in a casual manner.

Feeling a bit less casual, we have a monthly bunko group that gets together for food, drinks, and a friendly dice game. No worries if you have never played bunko before, it’s quick to learn and takes no skill whatsoever.

If you are interested in getting on the mailing lists for either of these groups, contact Lizz Story (uvaslp10@gmail.com).