

Happy New Year Neighbors!

We hope everyone had a great holiday season and a great start to this new year. It is time for another Homeowners' Association Newsletter update. Please read over the newsletter in its entirety, as it is full of great information!

The HOA meeting schedule for this year is as follows: May 10 (HOA Board Elections), June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, and November 1. All HOA meetings will be held at the Chesapeake Library off of Cedar Road.

Our next HOA meeting will be the annual election meeting for the 5 member Board of Directors. There will be one vacancy on the Board. If you are interested in being a candidate, please contact our current President, Bill Devens, at 482-4019.

HOA meetings are a wonderful opportunity to meet the board and express 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 1st Annual Ravenna Easter Egg Hunt! March 19th from 10am-12pm

Rain date is set for March 26th.
Look out for emails and door flyers for more information.

Other Community Events

Come join us at Ladies Night! This is a casual, get together of new and old neighbors in a social atmosphere. Events are hosted within the neighborhood. It is a great way to get to know your neighbors and socialize in a casual manner. For information regarding the email list for Ladies Night, contact Donna Ertel at dmebasket@me.com.

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. For information regarding the email list for Bunko, contact Alison Kentch at alkentch@gmail.com.

Halloween Party Director

It is with great sadness that we announce that Jennifer Adams and family will be moving to Virginia Beach this summer. Jennifer Adams has done an absolutely superb job managing the annual Ravenna Halloween Party. We desperately seek a replacement. All interested in managing or helping

to manage the Ravenna Halloween Party, please contact her at 410-7513.

General Community Updates

Little Free Library – A Little Free Library has opened at 317 Riviara Place. It is stocked with good quality books of interest to the neighborhood. It is located right along the sidewalk, is publicly accessible, and works on the honor system. You stop by, take whichever book catches your fancy, (one book at a time please) and return the book when done. Contribute books whenever you can. Again, there is no charge.

Potential Aquifer Contamination – 20 years ago, firefighting foam was used quite extensively at Fentress Airfield. January testing of the wells confirms that two potentially hazardous manmade chemicals from the foam have leached through the ground and contaminated the aquifer (well water). During February, the Navy will be testing the wells within a half mile of Fentress airfield to determine the extent and direction of the contamination. As the aquifer flows to the east, and Fentress is to the east of Ravenna, it is logical that Ravenna well water is unaffected. The primary threat to health is through ingestion. The water is safe for swimming (no ingestion), irrigation, washing cars, and watering vegetables. The City is erecting a free city water outlet on the Bradshaw farm property as a means of supplying water to those Chesapeake homes around Fentress that are dependent on well water for drinking water. The Board of Directors is closely monitoring the situation and will keep the neighborhood update via e-mail. To ensure you receive these updates, you need to be registered on the Ravenna web site. (Ravennahomeowners.net). For more information on the potential aquifer contamination, visit www.cnic.navy.mil/FentressInfo

School Redistricting- Concerns were brought to the attention to the board regarding rumors of potential

school redistricting. Bill Devens reached out to the Superintendent of Chesapeake schools and received the following information from the New Construction and Planning Administrator for Chesapeake schools.

“At this time, Chesapeake Public Schools has no plans to change attendance zones, including the attendance zone for Hickory High School. Please be advised that attendance zones are reviewed annually and are subject to change. In the event an attendance zone adjustment is proposed, a plan would be drafted and presented to the School Board for consideration. There would be ample public notification and opportunities for public input, the final plan would be approved by the School Board, and notification of the approved attendance zone adjustment is sent to all affected households.”

Gun Shots Behind Ravenna - Hunting is now prohibited in the wetlands between the Ravenna subdivision and the Intercoastal waterway. Report rifle shots from hunters to Chesapeake Police at 382-6556.

Speeding – Speeding in Ravenna demonstrates a disregard for the safety of others and continues to be an issue. **SLOW DOWN**. The Chesapeake Police have been alerted to this situation.

Spring Cleaning - Spring is right around the corner and it is also the time to plant grass (if you didn't do so in the fall), clean your siding, remove vegetation from your mulch beds, check your irrigation systems, and clean your steps and mailboxes of mildew/lichen. Pre-emergent weed killer should be applied just prior to the forsythias coming into bloom, normally two-three weeks before Easter.

Problem Lawns To Be Fined- Too many yards remain in a substandard state. Excessive barren areas and/or numbers of broad leaf weeds or clover patches are strong indicators of a poorly cared for lawn. Homeowners will have until October (2 grass planting opportunities) to bring their lawns up to standard before fines will be imposed. Homeowners with potentially substandard lawns will receive a

warning in March. The new Lawn Standard Enforcement Policy is available in the documents section of the Ravenna web site.

Neglected Children’s Structures at Issue- Many homeowners still have large children’s structures such as swings, play sets, trampolines, play house, etc in their backyards long after their children have outgrown them. Too often, their neglect becomes an eyesore to the neighbors and a blight to the neighborhood. Homeowners should consider disassembling them or painting/staining them if they are to remain up. Those failing to do so may receive violation notices.

No Unapproved Improvements are ever “grandfathered” - No unapproved changes to the appearance of your home or other improvement requiring Ravenna Architectural Committee approval are ever grandfathered. Should an unapproved “improvement” be brought to the attention of the Architectural Committee or the Board of Directors, now or in the future, a homeowner could be fined and directed to put it back in its original condition at any time. Any and all changes demanded by the Architectural standards must have approval. There is a very short turn around time for approvals and there is no longer any cost for submitting an approval request. **Be warned that proceeding with an improvement without approval could result in a substantial fine.**

Want to know what is happening around Ravenna?

Be sure to register on our neighborhood website – **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.

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 or email John McIntyre anytime with questions or concerns.

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