



RAVENNA NEWSLETTER
August 2018

Alert: Virginia Buttonweed - Virginia Buttonweed (pictures available on internet) has become a Ravenna problem, as it was identified in a considerable number of Ravenna lawns. **It is one of the most prolific and difficult to control of broadleaf weeds.** It has 2" elongated leaves, produces very small 4-pointed white flowers, and produces lots of small green seed pods in the fall. When left untreated, it spreads rapidly, developing a dense mat that crowds out the grass. It spreads through seeds, underground rhizomes, above ground rooting, **and mowed plant parts taking root.** Therefore, mulching vs bagging only helps it spread.

Virginia Buttonweed is not readily controlled by most general purpose weed killers. Per LSU, lawn weed killers that contain the active ingredients 2,4-D, mecoprop, dicamba or carfentrazone, such as **Weed B Gone Max for Southern Lawns, Weed Free Zone** and **Speed Zone**, and **Weed Beater Ultra** (available at Enchanted Forest Nursery on Kempsville Rd) are effective in suppressing and killing Virginia Buttonweed with multiple applications. The Enchanted Forest Nursery guide indicated that weed killers containing the active ingredients Fluroxpyr and Clopralid also controls Buttonweed.

Best control starts in the spring with an application of one of these products over the entire lawn in early April and again in early May. But, you should expect to make repeated herbicide applications through the summer after the April and May treatments. In LSU Ag Center research, it often takes 4 applications of herbicide to keep this weed in check and under control. Multiple herbicide applications over 2 summers are generally needed for heavy infestations

Caution: St. Augustine grass and centipede grass may be injured by these herbicides when applied in hot (>90 degrees) and humid weather.

Ravenna Lawn Enforcement – Lawns continue to be the HOA's primary home maintenance focus. For the most part Ravenna lawns look very good. However, there are a little over a dozen lawns that failed the June inspection. Those homeowners whose lawn failed the spring inspection have until the late October/early November inspection to bring their lawn up to standard. Should they fail a second time, they will be summoned to a hearing. A third failure will result in a subsequent substantial assessment. The Association has devoted considerable time and effort to compile professional advice on how to maintain a fescue lawn here in Chesapeake (recently posted and available on the web site). Homeowners should have no problem meeting standards if they follow this advice or hire a lawn service.

Clover Eradication - Large patches of Clover were found in a number of lawns during the spring inspection. Clover can be easily eradicated with Roundup Weed Killer.

Vegetation in driveways, sidewalks, and curbing – **Roundup** is an effective herbicide for killing and preventing vegetation from growing in the cracks of your driveway, sidewalks, or curbs.

Abuse of Storm Drains – Please do not deposit doggie poop bags in the storm drains and refrain from placing trash or used personal items in the gutters or on the roadway. These items inevitably find their way either into the retention pond or into the wetlands. Either way, someone else then has to clean up after you. Please note that eleven families share the retention pond as a component of their back yard. Please take pictures of violators and report them and their activity to any member of the Board of Directors.

Security – There has been at least one instance lately where an Amazon package left on a porch was opened and the contents removed. A home owner has also noted that items were mysteriously missing from their garage. As always, be ever vigilant and always lock your car doors and keep any valuables left in the car out of sight.

Dog Droppings – People not picking up after their dogs continues to be a problem. **This is a violation of Chesapeake code.** Home owners are encouraged to take a picture of the violator and their pet and report the violation to the City of Chesapeake. In addition, please forward the picture and any additional information to anyone on the HOA Board of Directors.

Ticks – The tick population has exploded this year and ticks carry many varieties of diseases besides Lyme disease. Please check your children, as well as yourselves, when they come in from outside, particularly if they were prone to rub up against bushes or walk in tall grass.

Noise Abatement – This is a relatively quiet neighborhood and we would like to keep it that way. Before gunning your engine or mowing early in the morning, please consider the impact on your neighbors.

Store Closings - Sears has announced they are closing their stores at Greenbrier and Pembroke this summer. For additional information see article at https://pilotonline.com/business/consumer/article_86ab50ca-7d50-11e8-af30-4f26dd43cf94.html

Ravenna Mid Summer Bash – The Board of Directors extends special appreciation to Shawna Hulen, Jen Keenan, and Stacy Eslich for orchestrating this make up for the weathered-out Halloween Party. We hope you and your family had a wonderful time.

Dog Feces – In consideration of their neighbors, dog owners should regularly pick up their dog's feces from their lawns and dispose of it, particularly in summer. The heat as well as the heavy local humidity significantly increases the chances their neighbors will share the scent.