

welcome to the neighborhood!

Answers provided Steve and Jennifer Farrin;
written by Norfolk Hunt Club member, Gil Rodgers
Photo Credits: Ruth Baltopoulos and Gil Rodgers

GREET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS:

Huntsman

STEVE, JENNIFER, AND MATHEW FARRIN



Left to right: Mathew, Jennifer and Steve Farrin

Key to the profound and rich history of Dover is the 125-year-old Norfolk Hunt Club, with its kennels, horse stables, and open fields along Centre Street. The club dates to 1895 and has continuously run as a vital part of the Dover community with notable members including Amelia Peabody, Lewis Brandeis, Leverett and Richard Saltonstall, George and David Lewis, and many more.



Huntsman Steve Farrin at Lowes Porter Trust, Dover



Norfolk Hunt Club kennels



Daily walking of the hounds

Steve Farrin, his family, and their six horses recently moved from Virginia to Dover, where Steve is the new and exceptionally well-qualified huntsman for the Norfolk Hunt Club. Norfolk Hunt Club member Gil Rodgers shares their story and insights on the sport of fox hunting.

How did you develop your passion for horses and the sport of fox hunting?

Steve grew up around horses in England; his father was a prominent horseman for 30 years leading the renowned Quorn Hunt kennels. In his younger days, Prince Charles was one of the Quorn's regular riders. Steve learned how to ride and care for the hounds and horses and how to manage the pack of hounds in the vast open English countryside.

Jennifer, originally from Michigan, became involved with horses when she was little and then went to college in Colorado where she worked for a hunt club and several hunt masters. Mathew, who will be a sophomore at Dover-Sherborn High School, also rides but enjoys other sports -- especially ice hockey.

What is "drag fox hunting," and how does it differ from "live hunting?"

"Drag fox hunting" has always been the sport in Dover and throughout Massachusetts. A "line," with the scent of a fox, is laid to map out the route the hounds, horses, and riders take through the extensive trails and open spaces the hunt has used for over 100 years. The hounds pick up the scent -- guided by the calls of the huntsman's horn -- and

riders on horseback follow the hounds on trails, over fences, stone walls, and streams, through open fields and neighboring farms. **No live animals have ever been pursued by the Norfolk Hunt Club.** Jennifer is often a "whipper-in" who acts as the constant second set of "eyes and ears" to support the huntsman and retrieve any hounds that occasionally stray from the pack.

What are some of the most desirable features of moving to Dover?

Steve and his family have lived in other gorgeous locations, including 13 years in rural New Jersey with the Amwell Valley Hounds and most recently near Middleburg, VA, with the historic Old Dominion Hounds. The Farrins look forward to living in Dover for several reasons: a family-oriented lifestyle, friendly and outgoing people who value the community's history, being closer to Jennifer's family in Maine, a cooler climate than Virginia, great schools, and having easy access to an amazing variety of activities, including coastal destinations, museums, skiing, and golf.

Do you see other benefits to the Dover community from the Norfolk Hunt Club?

Steve and Jennifer believe one of the most important benefits is the Norfolk Hunt Club's 125-year role in the preservation of open space and access to trails for passive recreation. They see Dover residents enjoy open space, miles of walking and hiking trails, canoeing along the Charles River, and other outdoor activities. The Norfolk Hunt Club's



values are closely aligned, and the club does a lot to maintain the trails and open space, keeping them open not only for riding but also for people to hike, dog walk, snowshoe, cross country ski, or enjoy birding.

How would you like to see the Norfolk Hunt Club develop?

Both Steve and Jennifer respond: “More junior riders!” The key to long-term sustainability for the club is constantly introducing more children, young adults, and interested riders to foxhunting or to volunteering with the hunt. The Farrins are big supporters of the Norfolk Pony Club. They also understand not everyone can ride a horse, but lots of people enjoy watching the horses and hounds and would like to volunteer to keep the tradition alive. As they settle into their new home, Steve and Jennifer will invite people to the kennels to walk with the hounds, help with the horses, try riding in a hunt, or assist with road crossings and other volunteer opportunities. Now that COVID regulations are relaxing, more neighbors can come out to



Left to right: Steve, Mathew, and Jennifer Farrin

watch the hunts and participate in upcoming events such as hunter paces, Polo in the Country, and the “Grounds for Celebration” benefit party to preserve and protect open space.

To learn more about the Norfolk Hunt Club, visit their website at www.norfolkhunt.com/.

**CHRIS, JASON AND THEIR TEAM
ARE HERE TO HELP WITH ALL OF YOUR
TREE AND SHRUB CARE NEEDS**

CUTLER TREE SERVICE

SINCE 1980

PRUNING AND REMOVAL | TRANSPLANTING AND PLANTING
STUMP GRINDING | EMERGENCY SERVICES
DOVER OWNED | FULLY INSURED

**CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE AND ARBOR CARE CONSULTATION
617-852-7236**

CLS Painting Corp

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
FULL SERVICE PAINTING
617-230-6870
cls.painting@hotmail.com

CLS Sanchez
Painting Corp.
Interior & Exterior

Full service interior & exterior painting
plus wall and ceiling repair, deck refinishing,
power washing and other services.

Contact Levi at **617-230-6870** or
by email at cls.painting@hotmail.com