

Great Falls CONNECTION

Owl Awe

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Barred owl

Damage to Historic Georgetown Pike?

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PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

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NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GREAT FALLS CITIZENS ASSOCIATION.
Washington Gas Project - Georgetown Pike between Applewood Lane and Ellsworth Avenue.



Gas Line Work Impacts Historic Structure on National Register of Historic Places

Unapproved engineering and design plans used.

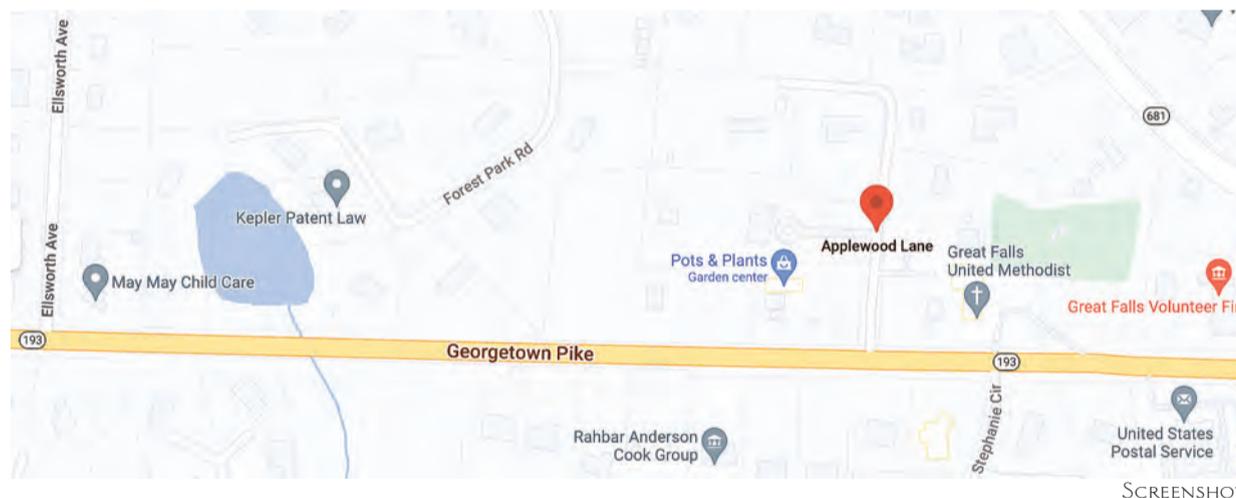
BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Work on a contributing structure of a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Reference Number 12000537- Georgetown Pike, was performed under permit but not according to plan and approval. “Washington Gas had an approved Land Use Permit through VDOT for work on their pipeline project, however, the work that was performed was not consistent with what had been proposed and approved,” said Ellen Kamilakis, MPIO, assistant district administrator for communication Northern Virginia District, Virginia Department of Transportation. “VDOT did issue a stop work order,” she said.

The location is on Georgetown Pike between Applewood Lane and Ellsworth Avenue in Great Falls. Georgetown Pike is the last surviving of the four prominent 19th-century Arlington and Fairfax County turnpike roads. Georgetown Pike retains the integrity of design with historic and scenic character.

“Typically, land use permittees inform the public of their approved work,” Kamilakis said. Before receiving the stop order, Washington Gas’s installation of larger diameter piping caused traffic delays in mid-May.

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Ellsworth Avenue and Applewood Lane in Great Falls are west of the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Station on Georgetown Pike.

As of June 3, remediation work was underway to restore the road to VDOT standards, Kamilakis said. On Thursday, May 26, work crews applied asphalt patches to paved sections of the historic byway. The problem is that the temporary patches are band-aids. They cover yet to be determined impacts on the historic roadbed under the paved surfaces and the “summer road” beside it that showed disturbed dirt in its grassy areas.

“After [the remediation work], in order for work to proceed, a new construction plan, including the removal of the previously placed pipeline, will need to be submitted, assessed, and approved by VDOT, with concurrence from Department of Historic Resources,” Kamilaski said.

According to Peter Falcone, Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) is concerned because the excavation of the roadway damaged the historic roadbed of Georgetown Pike. (It) is part of the basis for its designation on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP),” Falcone said.

“Georgetown Pike was named to the National Register of Historic Places Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012, giving the 14.4 miles of road from the Virginia-Washington, D.C. border to Leesburg Pike the recognition that many locals feel it deserves.” (Source-Great Falls Connection Newspapers, Pike Named to Register, by Alex McVeigh, Sept. 11, 2012)

According to the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service, which manages the National Register of Historic Plac-

es registration forms, Georgetown Pike has six contributing NRHP structures on its property. One of them is “the entire original roadbed, including grading, elevation, and direction with adjacent drainage ditches and unpaved right-of-way used for foot and horseback traffic and known as summer roads,” states the Pike’s form.

Even though the historic roadbed is mainly obscured from sight by being under pavement and vegetation, just like some of the other contributing historic structures on Pike property, the original stone retaining wall at Pimmit Run and the original stone, brick, and earth road bridge, now a viaduct over Bull Neck Run, the Pike’s roadbed is equally valuable. It meets the National Register’s Statement of Significance.

McLean Man Sentenced for Role in Tech Support Fraud Scam

A McLean man was sentenced Friday, June 3, to three years in prison for his role in a conspiracy to defraud more than 1,300 victims out of \$1.6 million in connection with a call center scam.

According to court documents, Bruhaspaty Prasad, 33, conspired with several other individuals primarily based in India at a call center to carry out a tech support scheme that primarily affected elderly victims. The defendant's

co-conspirators contacted the victims through unsolicited telephone calls and pop-up notifications on their computers claiming, in part, that the victims needed assistance to remove malware from their computers. In other instances, the call center employees pretended to be associated with companies like Amazon and Microsoft and falsely led the victims to believe that there were issues with their online accounts. The victims were duped

into signing contracts for technical support services that were never rendered. Once the victims agreed to pay for services, they were frequently contacted again for additional services and charged additional fees.

Prasad, as the primary U.S.-based conspirator, was responsible for creating several businesses that purported to offer technical support to clients. During the life of the conspiracy, Prasad opened

three businesses in the Commonwealth of Virginia, all of which received the fraudulently obtained proceeds of the scheme. Prasad was the sole signatory on the bank accounts for the entities he created. He was also responsible for transferring a significant portion of the fraud proceeds to his co-conspirators in India. Prasad continued operating these businesses and obtaining victims' funds even after personally receiving several

complaints and negative online reviews. Rather than closing the business entirely, Prasad continued to open businesses to allow the fraud scheme to proceed.

From April 2016 through September 2021, more than 1,300 individuals were defrauded. The victims suffered losses totaling more than \$1.6 million.

Jessica D. Aber, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and Wayne A. Jacobs, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Washington Field Office, made the announcement after sentencing by U.S. District Judge Claude M. Hilton.

Amazon provided law enforcement with substantial assistance during the investigation, according to Eastern District of Virginia officials.



FCPD Weekly Recaps for Friday, June 3

County-wide Calls for Service Summary:

Date Covered: 5/27-6/2/2022
 Total Calls for Service: 8,805
 Total Domestic Related Calls for Service: 221
 Total Persons Experiencing Mental Health Crisis Calls for Service: 196
 Total Crash Calls for Service: 623

McLean District Station

MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 7200 block of Arlington Boulevard, 5/29/22, 6:14 p.m. A 26-year-old man and the victim got into an argument. The man assaulted the victim and left the area. The victim was treated for injuries that were not considered life threatening. Through the officer's investigation, they identified the suspect and obtained a warrant for malicious wounding. The man was arrested two days later.

CARJACKING: 1900 block of Chain Bridge Road, 6/1/22, 5:01 p.m. The victim was sitting in his BMW M4 when two men approached. One man displayed a firearm, demanded his keys and took the BMW. No Injuries were reported.

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY: 2050 International Drive (Saks Fifth Avenue), 6/2/22, 2:50 p.m. A 27-year-old Alexandria man took merchandise without paying. When confronted by a store employee, the man assaulted the victim and ran from the area. Officers found the man nearby and arrested him for grand larceny, assault and battery and trespassing. No injuries were reported.

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Potomac School Student Is Virginia Winner for Google Doodle Contest

Kennedy Ferguson, a senior at The Potomac School in McLean, has been selected as the Virginia state winner in the 14th annual Doodle for Google contest. Her artwork is now eligible to be included on the Google homepage for hundreds of millions to see. Doodle for Google is an annual contest where K-12 students create their own versions of the Google logo, and Ferguson is one of the 54 state and territorial nominees whose work was selected. This year the theme for the competition was “I care for myself by...”

Ferguson explains, “My Doodle represents the ways I care for myself. My self-love language is self-expression, pampering, and indulging in things that make me the most happy and hopeful version of myself.”

A student in Potomac’s selective Visual and Performing Arts Concentration program’s fine arts track, Ferguson shares, “I have been fascinated with art since I was a child, and my passion has pushed me to always study, watch art tu-

torials, fill sketchbooks, and make insultingly bad crayon portraits of my family. This recognition means so much to me, and I am thankful for the opportunity to share my art with a larger audience.”

The judges for this year’s Doodle for Google contest are the 2021 National Teacher of the Year, Juliana Urtubey; director, model, and mental health activist Elyse Fox; and artist, entrepreneur, and philanthropist Selena Gomez.

The national winner will take home a \$30,000 college scholarship, and their school will receive a \$50,000 tech package toward the establishment or improvement of a computer lab or technology program.

Google has postponed public voting because of the tragedy in Uvalde, Texas. Once it resumes, this link (<https://doodles.google.com/d4g>) will direct voters to all the state and territory winners. Five national finalists will be announced once the voting closes, and the winning Doodle will be featured on the Google homepage for one day.

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Great horned owl at Dyke Marsh and young.

Owl Awe

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

Owls have always mystified and intrigued people.

From the Greeks who believed that owls predicted a military victory to Harry Potter's snowy owl pal Hedwig, owls have always mystified and intrigued people.

Harriet Tubman, an unsung naturalist, used owl calls to guide enslaved people to freedom and made owl calls to alert freedom seekers. The owl is Wayneswood Elementary School's mascot. "Owls are icons for everything from potato chips to cigars," Virginia owl expert John Spahr says.

Two owl species raising their young have delighted many Dyke Marsh visitors the past few months. Several observers have confirmed a barred owl pair raising two young and a great horned owl pair with one young.



PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

Barred Owl

Barred owls are named for their "bars" or striped plumage. They are common in Northern Virginia, often more heard than seen, making a baritone night call, "who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all," call in the wee hours. The call may be a mating call, especially in late winter, or members of a pair calling back and forth. Their young stay near their nest for up to six months.

Barred owls are around 21 inches long and weigh a little over a pound. They usually roost during the day and hunt at night for small mammals, lizards, snakes and frogs, but at times, they hunt during daylight. They are highly adaptable to varied habitats, including mixed forests and disturbed areas. "Barred owls are the opportunists of the owl world," wrote Leigh Clavez in *The Hidden Lives of Owls*.

The oldest barred owl recorded was at least 26 years, seven months old, according to Cornell University's *All about Birds*.

Great Horned Owl

Great horned owls have two feathered tufts on their head that resemble horns. These birds are around 22 inches in length and three pounds in weight. With piercing

Barred owl

yellow eyes, they have an intimidating stare. Some say that this is the owl every child would likely draw if tasked, a storybook owl.

Great horned owls prefer undisturbed habitats and forests, but also live in wetlands, forests, grasslands, backyards, cities and other semi-open habitats. They have been dubbed "tigers of the sky" because they are fierce predators of rats and mice, but can also catch skunks, rabbits, snakes and even porcupines. Their strong grip can sever their prey's spine.

Eastern Screech-owl

Another owl often seen in Dyke Marsh over the years is the eastern screech owl. They are eight-and-a-half inches long and weigh around six ounces. They too are excellent at camouflaging, spending much of their day roosting and blending in with the bark as they perch in tree cavities. Some are reddish brown; some are gray, a color variation that ornithologists call "morphs."

They mostly eat large insects and small rodents, but may eat other small creatures. Their name comes from their call, which some say resembles a horse whinnying.



PHOTOS BY ED EDER



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Eastern screech owl, gray morph.

Owl Basics

Owls are found on all continents except Antarctica and live in many habitats – suburbia, forests, farms, high desert steppes, the tropics and polar regions. Their size ranges from that of the elf owl in the western United States, around one-and-a-half ounces, to the Eurasian or European eagle owl, over nine pounds.

Most birds' eyes are on the sides of their heads, but owls' eyes face forward, like peo-

ple's eyes. Their eyesight is probably ten times better than human eyesight. They have nictitating eye membranes that help block dust. They swivel their heads to look to their sides and most can turn their heads 270 degrees.

Owls have a satellite-dish-shaped face that funnels sound to their asymmetrical ears, positioned to help determine where sound is coming from. Their hearing is so good they can hear prey rustling on the ground or a



PHOTOS BY ED EDER



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

These owls were at a Friends of Dyke Marsh Raptor Rapture event. They were injured, rehabilitated and cannot survive on their own.

mouse digging under two feet of snow, say experts.

Unlike other raptors with protruding beaks, an owl's beak curves downward. Owls have sharp, curved talons adapted to seize and squeeze prey and with their especially stout leg and foot bones, they can land hard on their prey.

Owls are excellent at camouflaging and are largely active at night. Their calls range

from hooting, hissing, howling and wailing to screaming.

When owls eat their prey, they regurgitate the indigestible parts like feathers and bones as a pellet. Some area nature centers help youngsters take pellets apart to study owls' diets. Owls can tear their prey apart, gulp down pieces and take pieces to nesting owls.

Owls can zoom through the woods and across a suburban street or yard almost noiselessly. They are very quiet flyers because they have comb-like, primary flight feathers on their wings' leading edges.

Owl Watching and Boxes

Be respectful of all birds. Stay on marked trails, to protect the birds, the habitat and the birds' prey and to avoid startling their young that might be provoked to fly, but are not yet able to. Do not disturb nesting females. It is never appropriate to use playback bird calls in the presence of any bird that is busy feeding and protecting its young.

Some people install nest boxes to attract owl breeding pairs. All boxes should be put up well before breeding season, so for this year, it is too late. A guard can keep predators like snakes from raiding eggs and young. All bird houses and boxes should be appropriately sized and designed for the bird species you are trying to attract. Visit All about Birdhouses at <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/>. This website has specifics on nesting periods, box placement, measurements and other tips.

World Blood Donor Day, June 14 Donate at Inova Blood Donor Services

The World Health Organization established World Blood Donor Day as a celebration of all blood donors. Every year on June 14, Inova Blood Donor Services and blood collection organizations all around the world provide special recognition of the gift of life that our donors provide.

The history of the recognition day relates to the memorial of Karl Landsteiner, a former Nobel Prize recipient for the discovery of the ABO blood group system. Without Landsteiner's research, the transfusion medicine world would not have advanced to where it is today.

This summer, blood centers across the country are at critically low levels for nearly all blood types. Please take the time to make an appointment to donate on June 14, or whenever you have time, to help boost the blood supply and ensure there is an adequate supply for our community in case of accidents and emergencies. There is no substitute for blood when needed for patient care — it can only come from volunteer donors like you. All donors who donate on World Blood Donor Day will receive an exclusive t-shirt as a thank-you gift.

Veteran and Military Spouse Career Fair Draws Hundreds

More than 400 veterans and military spouses attended the second bi-annual Veteran and Military Spouse Career Fair, presented by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA), in partnership with the Virginia Chamber Foundation and the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. Held over two days, the free event for veterans, transitioning military members and military spouses was held on May 11, 2022, at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, followed by a virtual career fair on May 12.



From left, Michael Batt, Director, Talent Initiative Program FCEDA; Fort Belvoir Deputy Garrison Commander John M. Moeller; Mount Vernon District Supervisor Daniel G. Storck, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and Vance Zavala, Fort Belvoir Liaison, Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives.

"We are very pleased that the Veteran and Military Spouse Career Fair was again a great success," said Michael Batt, Director of FCEDA's Talent Initiative. "More than 130 veterans and military spouses had the opportunity to attend the in-person event at the National Museum of the United States Army and over 600 online conversations were had between more than 300 jobseekers and recruiters during the virtual event," he continued. "We are proud to assist the military community with finding jobs in Northern Virginia."

At the two-day event, jobseekers had the opportunity to talk to representatives from 25 companies in-person and 150 recruiters from 50 companies virtually. Participating regional employers – including Microsoft, Mandiant and C2 Technologies – are collectively hiring for more than 10,000 positions across a wide variety of sectors, including government, IT, finance, defense, renewable energy and healthcare. Jobseekers were also able to engage with veteran organizations providing valuable resume review and guidance, community services and military spouse career education services. All backgrounds and experience levels were welcome at the events, and attendees of the virtual event hailed from across the globe. While not a requirement, more than half of the jobseekers that attended the events had active security clearances.

At the in-person event on May 11, Fairfax County Board Supervisor Daniel G. Storck

presented a Military Spouse Appreciation Week Proclamation to Fort Belvoir Deputy Garrison Commander John M. Moeller.

"Tremendous support today at the National Museum of the United States Army for the Veteran and Military Spouse Career Fair," said Storck. "This partnership with Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, Fort Belvoir and Fairfax County brought together over 50 companies looking to fill over 10,000 jobs."

Home to nearly 80,000 veterans and their families, as well as more than 1,900 veteran-owned firms, Fairfax County is a choice location for both active duty and retired military to successfully transition into the civilian workforce. Northern Virginia's 27 military bases make for a robust defense industry presence. The Veteran and Military Spouse Career Fair is the latest effort by FCEDA and partner agencies to attract and retain talent in Northern Virginia. A series of seven virtual career fairs hosted by FCEDA since May 2020 have attracted nearly 5,000 attendees and resulted in more than 11,000 completed conversations between job seekers and hiring reps from a wide range of employers.

Visit workinnorthernvirginia.com/veterans-clearance to learn more about career opportunities for veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses in Northern Virginia

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OPINION

Celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage

Recognize surge in hate crimes, discrimination.

BY DEL. KATHY KL TRAN

While Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month has just ended, communities throughout Virginia recognized the many contributions of AAPIs to our Commonwealth and country.

AAPIs include people with roots in dozens of countries and are the fastest growing minority group in Virginia, making-up seven percent of the population. In Fairfax County, AAPIs are the largest minority community, comprising over 20 percent of the population. I hope you have had an opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of Virginia's AAPI community by participating in cultural festivals or learning about a community changemaker.

While we celebrate, it is important we also acknowledge obstacles AAPIs continue to face. For example, we are currently experiencing a rise in hate and violence towards AAPIs that can be traced to former President Trump and his allies' racist COVID-19 rhetoric.

From March 2020 to December 2021, 10,905 hate incidents nationally were reported to Stop AAPI Hate, including harassment, workplace discrimination, assault and murder. Of these, 185 incidents were reported in Virginia. Last year, the horrific attacks in the Atlanta area that killed eight people, including six AAPI women, shed light on the disproportionate targeting of AAPI women.

AAPIs have dealt with systemic discrimination and racism throughout U.S. history, from the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, to the prohibition until 1952 on Asian immigrants becoming naturalized citizens.

We also confront pernicious stereotypes on a daily basis. The "perpetual foreigner" myth furthers the notion that AAPIs are not truly American. This othering erodes

our sense of belonging and sows distrust about the AAPI community. A recent study by Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change and The Asian American Action Fund found 33 percent of U.S. adults believe "Asian Americans are more loyal to their country of origin than to the United States," up from 20 percent last year.

At the same time, AAPIs are often stereotyped as the "model minority" — polite, hard working, self-reliant, and prosperous. While seemingly positive, this myth obscures the racism AAPIs face and the economic, educational, and health disparities within the AAPI community. It is also a deliberate effort to drive wedges between AAPIs and other minority communities.

I joined other AAPI state legislators to co-found the General Assembly's Virginia AAPI Caucus in 2021. Our caucus lifts up the concerns and priorities of AAPI Virginians and works closely with other caucuses to support the wellbeing of vulnerable Virginians. This year, we introduced legislation and budget proposals to strengthen public education, expand health care, increase language access, grow entrepreneurship and small businesses, and improve refugee services as well as to address hate. You can learn more at <https://www.vaapic.org/>.

As AAPI Heritage Month comes to a close, we should celebrate the contributions of the AAPI community, reflect on the racism and discrimination AAPIs continue to face, and recommit ourselves to working for a Commonwealth that is more just, equitable, and inclusive.

Kathy Kl Tran serves in the Virginia House of Delegates representing the 42nd District, which includes parts of Mount Vernon, Lorton, West Springfield and Fairfax Station. She is the first Vietnamese American elected to Virginia state government and is the First Vice Chair for Policy for the Virginia AAPI Caucus.

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CALENDAR

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

NOW THRU JULY 4

Paper Jewels. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza West, Reston. Julia Malakoff presents her newest mixed media artworks to stimulate the senses of sight, smell, and taste through vivid colors and textures in her solo show, "Paper Jewels," featured at Reston Art Gallery and Studios (RAGS) from June 2 until July 4. Malakoff's own senses of smell and taste were altered by a case of Covid in 2020, but as a professional artist she has been able to put her imagination to work to ease the challenges of being a long-hauler, and to bring joy. Visit <https://juliamalakoff.com/>.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on Fridays at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats: herbs; flowers, and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. Visit: <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfax-county.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

NOW THRU JUNE 19

HomeAid Diaper Drive. At HomeAid Office, 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly. HomeAid Northern Virginia is currently hosting their annual Builders for Babies diaper drive. With the drive closing on Father's Day (June 19th) they encourage everyone to get involved to reach our collection goal of 50,000 diapers and wipes. Then, on June 24th, they will be



The political comedian Bassem Youssef will appear at the Alden Theater in McLean on Friday, June 10, 2022.

distributing to roughly 20+ of our nonprofit partners in need in Northern Virginia and Winchester. Contact Georgeanne Harter at gharter@homeaidnova.org or 703-953-3529. Visit the website: <https://homeaidnova.org/>

JUNE 2-19

"Under the Sea." At 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road Tysons. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 8

Mary Gauthier with Special Guest Jaimee Harris. 7:30 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Visit www.jamminjava.com

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 8

Princess Diana: Accredited Access Exhibition. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. This exhibition features photos and never-before-heard stories of the People's Princess from her Official Royal Photographer, Anwar Hussein, and his sons, Samir and Zak, who are now Official Royal Photographers for the next generation of Royals. Tickets are available here: www.PrincessDianaExhibit.com/Washington.

THURSDAY/JUNE 9

Get to Know. 5-7 p.m. At Brightview Great Falls, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Explore the community, enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and meet the team at Brightview Great Falls.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

The Winery at Bull Run Anniversary. 6:30-9:30 p.m. At 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Featuring the Special Occasions Band in concert on Hillwood Park. Tickets are \$10.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

Political Comedian Bassem Youssef. 7 p.m. At The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Egyptian heart surgeon turned world-famous political comedian, Youssef was dubbed the Jon Stewart of the

Arab World. He was the creator and host of the first political satire show in the Middle East and the most watched show in the Arab world, with 30 million viewers each week. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Public Safety Day. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At London Towne Elementary School, 6100 Stone Road, Centreville. Fairfax County's Communities of Trust Committee will host a Public Safety Day. The event will feature food and games plus various police vehicles on display. Email fairfax-COTC@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

The 28th Tinner Hill Music Festival. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Cherry Hill Park, 312 Park Ave., Falls Church. In addition to great music, there's food, craft beer, vendors, kids' activities, and more to delight and entertain the entire family. Festival Lineup: Rebirth Brass Band, Marcia Ball, Dale and the ZDubs, Carly Harvey's Kiss & Ride, Batala Washington, Gordon Sterling and the People, Mr. Jon & Friends, DJ Stylus "The Vibe Conductor." An enticing array of activities and vendors will be found throughout the park in the Interactive Villages. Visit www.tinnerhill.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Concerts on the Green. 6-8 p.m. At the Village Centre Green, Great Falls. Featuring Timmie Metz - Rock & Roll with a soulful, slightly gravely touch. Hosted by The Old Brogue and Katie's Coffee House. Come relax at the Village Centre Green and enjoy laid-back evenings of good music and good times with your neighbors.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

My Chorus NoVa Lights Chorale. 4 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 3439 Payne Street, Falls Church. My chorus, NoVA Lights Chorale, a mixed chorus based in Northern Virginia, will present a free concert. See <https://novalightschorale.org> for more information.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Zoom Panel Discussion. 3:30-5 p.m. Via Zoom. Pathways out of Poverty in Northern Virginia - Easing Reentry for the Convicted. Panelists will share experiences at helping the eligible formerly convicted and incarcerated to rebuild their lives, and suggest ways to help. Sponsored by Lewinsville Presbyterian Church and Redeemer Lutheran Church of McLean and Tysons Interfaith coalition. Register at: www.tysoninterfaith.org

TUESDAY/JUNE 14

Author John Schmitz. 7-8:30 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave, E, Vienna. Author John E. Schmitz will discuss his book, Enemies Among Us: the relocation, internment, and repatriation of German, Italian, and Japanese Americans during the Second World War. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/8977805>

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PUBLIC HEARING ON MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER'S DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 6:30 P.M.

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking public input as it finalizes its strategic plan based on public feedback gathered from district residents over the last several months. MCC has hired AMS Planning & Research to help craft the plan and invites residents of Dranesville Small District 1A to express their ideas about the future programming and strategic priorities of the center at this public hearing.

Your opinion is important!

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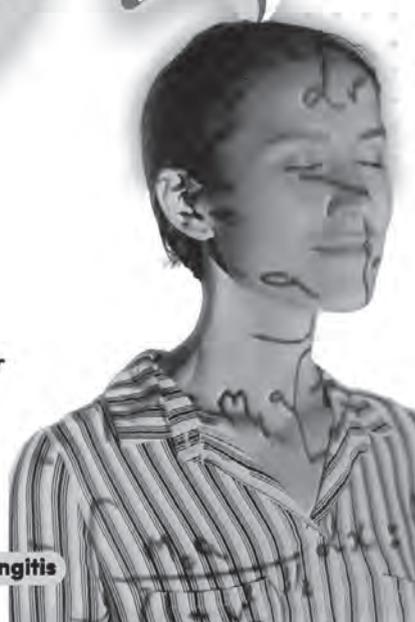
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HOMELIFESTYLE

Using Interior Decor to Herald the Arrival of Summer

From throw pillows to rugs, small changes in a home's accessories can create the lazy days of the coming season.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

With Labor Day in the rear view mirror and the official start of summer just two weeks away, three local design aficionados are focusing on accessories that create a seamless transition from spring to summer. Their ideas run the gamut from foliage to rugs and offer inspiration for embracing the beauty of the new season.

Light and airy color combinations, particularly those found in works of art can evoke a relaxed aura. Having recently completed a series of breezy beach scenes, reminiscent of summer, interior designer and artist Gretchen Fuss, formerly of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, says that paintings can set the tone of an interior space. "Attention to detail and design is all about truly living in a comforting environment. Each space needs harmony and purpose." Fuss works with other tastemakers to create a piece of art commissioned by a client.

In fact, Bethesda designer Eleanor Burch uses beach inspired elements to create ocean inspired spaces. "Beige, blue and white color schemes can take you away to a lazy summer day at the beach even if you're sitting in your living room," she said. "Even adding rattan baskets or using rattan placemats at dinner can create a sense of peace."

Seasonal foliage can be used to make the transition from spring to summer and blossoms are plentiful in the Washington region, says local designer Georgia Hoyler, owner of Passerine, an online shop which carries handmade vintage rugs from around the world. "Flowers offer an array of bright floral arrangements," she said. "But for a more dramatic statement, consider clipping flowering foliage from your yard to bring the season in. When it comes to branches as decor, bigger is always better. Oversized branches bring a sculptural element to a space that evokes a natural drama. Opt for an asymmetrical arrangement to create a more graceful line. By refreshing their water daily, a cut branch can last up to two weeks in your home."

From the understated elegance of a cotton knit throw draped casually on the back of a chair in the family room or a quilt in airy hues topping the bed in a guest room, trading heavy textiles for their warm weather counterparts throughout one's home is a cost effective way to embrace the carefree spirit of summer. "The simple replacement of throw pillows from stripes to tonal, block print floral patterns, for instance, makes a substantial impact with little effort," said Hoyler. "Beyond just pattern updates, consider the fibers of your textiles. Swapping a heavier weight cotton velvet or wool that



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGIA HOYLER.

When updating a home's interior to reflect a change in seasons, designer Georgia Hoyler, owner of online boutique Passerine, says that the most substantial change that you can make without replacing a single piece of furniture is updating your rug.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRETCHEN FUSS

Works of art, such as these beach scenes can herald a new season.

works for winter to lighter linen in pillows and bedding subconsciously feels fresher. Most importantly, consider the color palette. Consider romantic, cooler hues of spring and summer, such as soft blues, creams and whites."

The most substantial change that you can make without replacing a single piece of furniture is updating your rug," says Hoyler. "On cold winter nights, the shag of a Moroccan rug's thick pile may have appeal, but spring was made for a vintage Persian area rug," she said. "The lower pile height of an antique Persian Tabriz, Farahan or Bahktiari make them perfect options in warmer months."

Changing the lighting in a space can be a minor endeavor that can have a major impact when transitioning for one season to another. "Knowing that summer's longer days typically pull brighter, natural daylight tones in your home, consider how to control your lighting," said Hoyler. "Swap the warm 2700 kelvin bulbs that you craved in winter for energy-efficient LED bulbs to compliment the change in natural light outdoors. If you have an outside space you like to enjoy in warm spring or summer evenings, install solar-powered landscaping spotlights or string twinkle lights over your patio or deck to draw you outdoors, even as the light fades."

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It's My Idea, and I Do Think Much Of It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And while I ended last week's column referring to two cities, Rome, and Milwaukee, that weren't built in a day (figuratively speaking), neither as it happens are they cities that I've visited. In fact, there are lots of cities that I've not visited, for all the usual reasons. Reasons which, after receiving a diagnosis of "terminal" cancer, become insignificant, and life in the post-cancer diagnosis years takes on a whole new/urgent meaning. A meaning which invariably presents itself in the organization and planning of a presumptive "bucket" list, a list of people you want to see, places you want to go, and things you want to do before you succumb to your disease.

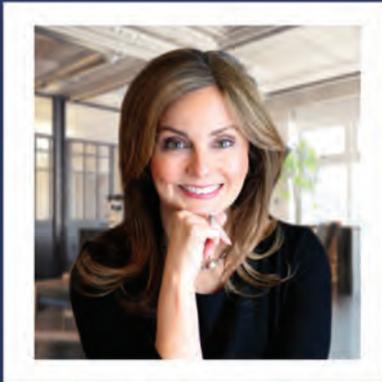
It is a question/concept I have been presented with frequently over my many cancer years, most of them while characterized as "terminal." Even my oncologist suggested it one time after a particular infused medication I had been taking stopped working and we were deciding how next to proceed. He said that perhaps I should stop treatment for a while, and since I was likely feeling as good as I ever would, perhaps take that trip I had always dreamed of. He added that I might feel worse after we started new treatment; never knowing exactly whether the side effects would be manageable, or even if the treatment would work.

As it has turned out, I never took my oncologist seriously. I figured my treatment was not something to stop just to take a vacation - because it might get worse if I didn't. I just didn't think like that. My thought was keep doing what we're doing and not allow the cancer - to the extent we had any control, to get any kind of foot hold. To me, it felt like giving up/giving in to the cancer, and I never wanted to do that. And pursuing one's bucket list, during, and as direct result of, the intervals of my cancer treatment, seemed ill-advised, or at least, ill timed - to me. Just because my treatment wasn't working at a certain point, never seemed like a good reason to do even less and try to live more. My attitude was then and is now to live as normally as possible and not create artificial diversions/accomplishments to satisfy some arbitrary list that might not otherwise exist if you weren't "terminal." I never wanted to realize that the reason I was doing something was because I was dying, and it needed to be done - or else. I never wanted to impose that kind of pressure on myself. Cancer creates enough pressure on its own. A cancer patient doesn't need to increase that pressure by trying to check off a list.

But perhaps I'm just being contrary. I've heard much about a so-called "bucket list" these last 13 and half years. And as I've said, I've never bought it to it because I thought the price was too high. I never have wanted to deny my cancer reality by living a life unsuitable to who I am at my core. I'm not exactly Popeye the Sailor Man, but "I am who I am," and if I'm not doing things that I normally do, and instead doing things that I don't normally do, I would know the only reason I'm doing these things - that I don't usually do, is because I'm dying. To me, I'd be reinforcing a negative, and the last thing I've wanted to do during my cancer career was allow negativity to take root anywhere, anyway, anyhow. I've always felt that when I die, I want to die on my own terms, doing my own things for my own reasons.

To summarize my philosophy, I don't want to do things because I have cancer, I want to do things as if I don't. Granted, some days are harder than others, but at the end of every day, I'm more determined than ever to make the best of a bad situation. And for me, a vacation from my treatment was never going to work.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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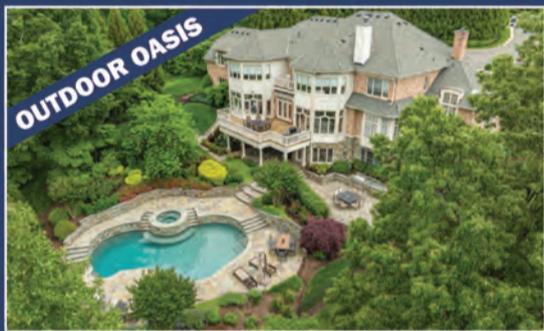
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