

Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 9, 2022

Lee Chamber Awards \$18,000 in Scholarships

Nine scholarships were awarded to local high school students by Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce to recognize outstanding achievement of 2022 graduating seniors planning to continue their study in a business-related field.

The 2022 Distinguished Business Scholars are Zara Ahmed, Mount Vernon High School; Sara Arif, West Potomac High School; Michael Binyam, South County High School; Rebecca Brees, West Potomac High School; Nate Dietrick, South County High School; Emma Febraro, Hayfield Secondary School; Ryan Kiefer, Hayfield Secondary School; Bradley Klink, Bishop Ireton High School; Wendell Rice, John R. Lewis High School.

Brigadier General Retired Robert Jorgensen, president of the Army Retirement Residence Foundation – Potomac at The Fairfax Retirement Community spoke to the awardees about his education and career encouraging them to “never give up.”

“General Jorgensen has a lot of wisdom to share with the students,” said Mark Murray, chair of the Chamber’s 501(c)3 foundation, “and The Fairfax provided a lovely venue to present the scholarships and meet the families.”

Many scholarship recipients will be the

first generation of college students in their families. They expressed their appreciation to the businesses that provided scholarships to help them achieve their dream of attending college.

“The commitment the chamber makes to ensure scholarships each year is extraordinary,” said Holly Dougherty, president of the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. “Our youth are the future and we want them to be successful. These scholarships are an investment in the future of our community.”

Scholarships are made possible by the generous donations of local businesses. Businesses that provided complete scholarships are Covanta Fairfax Inc., Clearpath Solutions Group, Cisco and Ourisman Automotive dealerships.

This continues the Chamber’s annual tradition of providing scholarships to students planning to study business. The Chamber has awarded scholarships for more than 20 years and these scholarships totaling \$18,000 brings the Chamber’s cumulative scholarship giving to more than \$268,000.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TISARA PHOTOGRAPHY

Left to right, Don Cammarata, Covanta Fairfax; Sara Arif, West Potomac High School; Wendell Rice, John R. Lewis High School; Zara Ahmed, Mount Vernon High School; Ryan Kiefer, Hayfield Secondary School; Emma Febraro, Hayfield Secondary School; General Robert Jorgensen; Bradley Klink, Bishop Ireton High School; Rebecca Brees, West Potomac High School; Michael Binyam, South County High School; Alison Ross Tompkins, The Fairfax; Mark Murray, Mount Vernon Pool Service.

Proposal: From Landfill to Park Land

Will this park proposal be approved?

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

After repeated past disappointments, Lorton residents who have looked forward to the prospect of a new park located on the site of the closed Furnace Road landfill, again await a decision on the latest park proposal at the site. Called Overlook Ridge Park, Furnace Associates, the current owner of the property at 10001 Furnace Road, submitted the latest proposal to Fairfax County’s planning commission in mid February 2022. The department requested an extension for their review in March, which was granted. Called a 2232 Review, it seeks to determine the “compatibility of proposed public facilities with locational guidelines established in the Comprehensive Plan” (per Virginia Code Sec 15.2-2232). The county planning commission will hold a public hearing on the proposal, as part of the process, at the Government Center, June 15, 7:30 p.m.

The current proposal for the public park, on about 20 of the overall 250 acres, would provide an extensive recreation area with “bird sanctuaries, hiking and equestrian trails, exercise and picnic areas, pollinator and sculpture gardens, kite-flying areas,

multiple smaller parking areas, bathroom facilities, an amphitheater with an earthen stage, and a scenic overlook,” according to the proposal submission. It would sit at the highest point in Fairfax County, with vistas of the river and northern Virginia surrounds and several overlooks providing views in all directions. The area can be seen from a distance now as a high grassy ridge.

The site would remain privately owned, with Furnace Associates, continuing to maintain the landfill elements, such as the gas wells and stormwater systems. Fairfax County Park Authority would operate the park amenities, once built, with a targeted completion date in 2025. Furnace Associates is fulfilling the commitment made by the previous landfill owner, to build a park as part of the legal agreement which established the landfill. Still to be resolved is the question of liability for any damages or injuries related to leaking methane gas or other problems at the site.

“We’re still discussing that with the county,” company spokesperson Lisa Kardell said. Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will continue to monitor and inspect the site for a period of at least ten years after the landfill closing date.

This portion of the landfill, used for con-



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Wildflowers and trees occupy the landfill since it’s 2018 closing. Planning Dept to hold public hearing on landfill park proposal on June 15th

struction and demolition debris, was closed in 2018. The first park proposal for reuse of the land was submitted in 2014 by then owner EnviroSolutions (ESI). The county denied that proposal, which included a request to continue landfill operations through Dec.

31, 2040, and the addition of solar panels, a methane-capturing system, a baseball batting area, and a golf range. In its denial, the county said all structures atop the landfill should instead be open-air facilities to prevent the build-up of landfill gasses.

Waste Management became the new owner in 2018 when it acquired EnviroSolutions. In August 2020, the company’s site operating arm, Furnace Associates, requested changes to the prior proposal and clarification of the development conditions and requirements. They sought changes related to stormwater management, to reduce walking and bike trail slope degrees, and to protect existing trees previously approve in landscape plans. The most recent, February proposal, incorporates the county’s planning department clarifications and suggestions, which already have been completed at the site.

Furnace Associate’s district manager, David Kaasa, said, “Fairfax County has several steps that you have to do to get to that point of building the park. That’s really what we’re in the process of doing right now.” He clarified the steps as including the 2232 Review, site plan revisions, permit modifications, and building permits, as well as the June 15th public hearing, which is part of the 2232 Review.

SEE LANDFILL PARK PROPOSAL, PAGE 3

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NEWS

Oakton Student Pedestrians Dead in Crash

BY MERCIA HOBSON

FCPD detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit continue to investigate a fatal crash at Blake Lane and Five Oaks Road in Oakton that happened Tuesday, June 7. Two Oakton High School students died and others were injured in the crash.

Oakton, a Fairfax County Public High School, had been released early that day. "We are devastated to learn this news and are grieving the loss of these students," said Jamie S. Lane, Principal, in a letter to Oakton families and staff, "Our deepest condolences extend to all families impacted."

According to police reports, officers responded to the intersection at 11:46 am for a crash involving two vehicles and three pedestrians. Preliminarily, detectives determined the driver of a 1997 Toyota 4Runner was in the northbound lanes of Blake Lane attempting to turn left onto Five Oaks Road. The driver of the 4Runner was waiting for three juveniles to cross the street prior to completing the turn.

Once the pedestrians cleared the roadway, the driver began turning left. Detectives believe the driver of a 2018 BMW 530i, an 18-year-old of Fairfax, was traveling at a high rate of speed in the right lane of southbound Blake Lane. The driver of the BMW struck the 4Runner in the intersection, continued traveling south and struck the three pedestrians on the sidewalk. The BMW continued down Blake Lane striking a utility pole causing it to fall to the ground. The BMW came to rest a short distance

down the road.

Two pedestrians, both teenagers who attended Oakton High School, were taken to the hospital with injuries considered life threatening and the young women succumbed to these injuries. The third pedestrian, also a teenage Oakton High School student, was taken to the hospital for injuries not considered to be life threatening. The driver of the BMW and his juvenile passenger were taken to the hospital to be treated for injuries that were not considered life threatening. The driver of the Toyota 4Runner, an adult male, was treated at the scene for injuries.

Preliminarily, detectives do not believe alcohol was a factor. Two passengers in the BMW ran from the scene but were identified during the investigation. Detectives continue to investigate and conduct additional interviews. Details of the investigation will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney to determine the appropriate charges on all parties involved. Once charged and arrested, the identity of the BMW driver will be released.

Per Virginia Code 19.2-11.2, we are prohibited from providing information about juvenile victims unless parental consent is provided. It prohibits Virginia law enforcement agencies from directly or indirectly identifying deceased juvenile victims of a crime.

Victim advocates from our Major Crimes Bureau's Victim Services Division have been assigned to this case to ensure the victim's families receive the appropriate resources and assistance.

Principal Lane said in the letter to Oak-



Oakton graduation on June 3. The community is awash in grief instead of joy after a devastating crash by the school killed two students and seriously injured others.

ton Families and Staff that if a student needs support after hours, contact the CrisisLink Regional Hotline at 703-527-4077 or text

"NEEDHELP" to 85511.

Updates by FCPD can be found at <https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/>



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Proposed Overlook Ridge Park area visible from distance as a high ridge of green

Landfill Park Proposal

FROM PAGE 5

Landfills are designed for receiving either construction and demolition debris (CDD) or municipal solid waste (MSW). CDD is waste from old structures when torn down, or left-over materials from new construction. Concrete, dirt, tree stumps, drywall, and other materials are hauled to a landfill. Metal and

other items which are economical to recycle are sorted out, and the remainder is compacted to create an artificial hill. Because liquid waste is not accepted at such landfills, the risk of the contents migrating offsite is reduced. The Lorton landfill contains these CDD type materials. The landfill is "capped" with a three or four foot clay layer, which Kaasa called the liner, as well as a geomem-

brane at the base. The geomembrane is a very low permeability synthetic barrier used to control migration of fluids and gasses. Most closed landfills do not permit trees to prevent damage to the liner caused by tree roots. On this site, extra soil was added to permit trees to be planted on the top and sides of the area.

Kaasa said, "While we're on schedule, there's still a lot to be done yet."

Added Kardell, "It's a good working re-

lationship between the county as well as Waste Management and the local citizens in the area. We've worked closely with the South County Federation folks to make sure that the plan meets everyone's needs so that they'll have a park in their local area that they can be proud of."

Nearby, another company, Alpine X, has proposed an indoor ski resort, also in the review process, on another closed landfill not associated with Furnace Associates.

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Inova Pride Clinic: First Dedicated Medical Clinic for LGBTQ+ Community

Inova Health System is proud to announce the opening of Northern Virginia's first dedicated medical clinic for the LGBTQ+ community. The Inova Pride Clinic, located at 500 North Washington Street, in Falls Church, VA will serve as a primary care clinic with an emphasis on the specific needs of the LGBTQ+ community in a safe, respectful and compassionate environment.

"As a leader in health equity, and with Inova Fairfax Hospital recently designated as a LGBTQ+ Healthcare Top Performer by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, Inova has long embraced innovative approaches to bridge gaps in healthcare," said J. Stephen Jones, MD, President and CEO, Inova. "We know many LGBTQ+ patients are at greater risk for health issues because of a lack of regular healthcare in an environment where they feel respected and comfortable. The Inova Pride Clinic will ensure inclusive and judgment-free care, and supporting long-term health and wellness – without barriers."

Led by Dr. Jorge Ramallo, who is board certified in internal medicine and pediatrics and a member of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) and the American Academy of HIV Medicine (AAHIVM), the Pride Clinic's team of clinicians will bring their expertise in addressing the unique health needs of this community, such as gender affirming care, HIV prevention, adolescent health, STI treatment and prevention, and mental health.

In addition to the full range of preventive care, health screenings and chronic disease management, our primary care doctors and team members are experienced in all LGBTQ+ specific healthcare needs, such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention and gender-affirming care, including counseling for youth and adults about health, gender identity and sexuality.

"In any part of healthcare, it's critical that we meet patients where they are," said Dr. Ramallo. "The sad truth is that many LGBTQ+ patients have encountered some form of discrimination in a healthcare setting in their lifetime, which has made doctor visits stressful and avoidable for many. By creating a dedicated medical home, we can help encourage members of this community to get the care they need."

"Starting my career as an HIV social worker, I saw firsthand the stigma and healthcare disparities that existed for the LGBTQ+ communities," said Karen Berube, Vice President, Community and Population Health, Inova. "With no clinic of this kind in Northern Virginia, we knew we had to make an investment in the health of the LGBTQ+ community. I am incredibly proud that this vision has become a reality. I am hopeful that with this clinic, there will never be another LGBTQ+ person who feels afraid to pursue the care they need in a compassionate and respectful environment."

For more information on the Inova Pride Clinic, visit www.inova.org/prideclinic



A rainbow of dignitaries and elected officials joining Inova for the opening of Northern Virginia's first dedicated medical clinic for the LGBTQ+ community.

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.

Do You Trust Interior Department Law Enforcement?

The Department of the Interior today announced that it would hold 12 listening sessions and invite public comment on ways to strengthen public trust and confidence in the Department's law enforcement programs, ensure appropriate policy and oversight is implemented, and assure supportive resources are available for officer mental health, wellness, and safety. Feedback from the public will inform the work of the Department's Law Enforcement Task Force and help usher the nation into the next phase of community-focused law enforcement.

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland launched the Task Force last year to implement the highest standards for protecting the public and provide necessary policy guidance, resources, and training to agency personnel.

"The Department of the Interior has a unique opportunity through the Law Enforcement Task Force to be a national leader in community-focused law enforcement and a model of how to build trust and collaboration between law enforcement and the public that they serve," said Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau. "These listening sessions will be critical as the Department works to ensure the highest standards for protecting the public and provide poli-

cy guidance, resources, and training to our cherished law enforcement officers."

On May 25, 2022, President Biden signed an Executive Order on Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Criminal Justice Practices to Enhance Public Trust and Public Safety. This EO "will enhance public trust by promoting accountability, transparency, and the principles of equality and dignity in policing." The Department's Law Enforcement Task Force is working to support the President's direction.

Led by Deputy Secretary Beaudreau and comprised of law enforcement representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and the DOI Office of Law Enforcement and Security, the task force has been working diligently over the last year to establish the scope of the project, ensure equity in all its work, and develop strategies for outreach and data collection.

In an effort to identify opportunities for improvement in law enforcement programs of the Department of the Interior (DOI) (National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Reclamation) and to strengthen public trust in the Department's law enforcement practices and policies, the

DOI is hosting twelve (12) listening sessions open to the public. DOI seeks to engage with diverse stakeholders who interact with, are impacted by, or have experience with DOI Law Enforcement Officers to strengthen public relations and inform DOI law enforcement programs. Transparency, building public trust and ensuring accountability are key tenets that support equitable law enforcement experiences across diverse geographic and demographic populations. The public can submit comments through this Federal Register Notice which will inform themes and recommendations for the Department.

12 Virtual Listening Sessions Coming Up

DATES: The Department of the Interior will hold twelve (12) virtual listening sessions on the following dates:

- Monday, June 13, 2022, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, June 15, 2022, from 9 p.m. – 11 p.m. EDT
- Tuesday, June 21, 2022, from 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. EDT
- Thursday, June 23, 2022, from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. EDT
- Saturday, June 25, 2022, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT
- Monday, June 27, 2022, from 8 p.m. – 10 p.m. EDT
- Tuesday, June 28, 2022, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. EDT
- Thursday, June 30, 2022, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, July 6, 2022, from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. EDT
- Wednesday, July 13, 2022, from 10 p.m. – 12 a.m. EDT
- Thursday, July 14, 2022, from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. EDT
- Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. EDT

Interested persons are also invited to submit comments in writing or online. We invite you to submit comments on this notice. You may submit comments online at <https://www.regulations.gov/> by entering "DOI-2022-0008" in the search bar and clicking "Search" or by mail to U.S. Department of the Interior, LE Task Force, 1849 C Street, NW, MS 3428, Washington, DC 20240. You may respond to some, or all of the questions listed in the "Supplementary Information—Questions" section of this document. All public comments received are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and will be posted in their entirety at <https://www.regulations.gov/>, including any personal or business confidential information provided. Do not include any information you would not like to be made publicly available.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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 Zavela, Fort Belvoir Liaison, Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives.

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.

"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 on-line 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

Budget Specifics

The budget contains historic investments in K-12 education including the state share of teacher pay increases, and many other things.

By SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week, I wrote about some of the local effects of the bipartisan budget agreement that we sent to the Governor last week. This week I will write about some of the broader issues addressed in the budget.

First, I was not pleased with the tax cuts which I believe are short-sighted. The budget contains several other priorities I do not support such as a new \$100 million “college laboratory school” program and new funds for school resource officers, but bipartisanship requires compromise.

The overall budget is about \$180 billion over a two-year period or biennium. The General Fund portion of the budget which we have the most discretion around totals about \$59 billion over two years. It balances and contains a constitutionally-mandated \$1.1 billion deposit to our “Rainy Day Fund” which is now projected to total \$3.8 billion by FY2023 as required by the Constitution of Virginia. It also contains a \$750 million deposit against our \$15 billion unfunded retirement liability with the Virginia Retirement System.

The budget contains a number of tax cuts which reduced available revenue by over \$4 billion. Specifically, it reduced revenues by \$1.6 billion by increasing the standard deduction to \$8,000 for individuals and \$16,000 for joint filers. It eliminates the state sales tax on food

for human consumption and personal hygiene products at a cost of \$372 million but leaves the 1% local option sales tax that funds K-12 in place. The budget also contains rebates of \$250 and \$500 for single and married tax filers which will cost \$1.0 billion. It also makes the Virginia Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) partially refundable at a cost of \$315 million and exempts military retirement pay from state income taxes in \$10,000 increments starting in 2022 up to \$40,000 in 2025.

The budget contains historic investments in K-12 education including the state share of teacher pay increases of 5% each year and \$1,000 bonuses for each school employee. It partially eliminates the cap on state support for non-teaching personnel that has been in place since 2010 and contains state funded teacher recruitment bonuses of up to \$5,000 per position.

It also contains a new \$1.0 billion school modernization fund which directs funds to localities through three separate streams. School construction has historically been a locally-funded activity and many conservative areas have refused to raise taxes to keep up with maintenance.

Higher education received over \$200 million of additional support for in-state tuition, financial aid, but the state is still only funded in-state student tuition at 50% of historic levels. Several universities have kept tuition flat in light of this.

The budget increases Health and Human Services funding by \$1.4 billion including investments which will reduce our Medicaid Waiver Waiting List for developmentally and intellectually disabled persons. It provides \$86 million in new funding to raise personal care rates for personal attendants and \$85 million for increased dental insurance reimbursements so more dentists will take Medicaid funded dental patients. It raises the salaries of state mental health workers to the 50th percentile with salary increases averaging around 37%. Our mental health system has been unable to keep up with demand or retain employees. It also funds a state reinsurance program for our state healthcare exchange which will reduce insurance premiums for individuals purchasing their insurance from the exchange.

The budget contains \$47 million to fund local police departments like Fairfax and Prince William County, about \$70 million for raises to our Sheriffs, and \$113 million for raises with the Virginia State Police and our correctional workers. It also funds raises for state employees ranging between 10-15% over two years along with \$1,000 one-time bonuses.

Finally, it also contains funds to widen I-64 to four lanes between Richmond and Williamsburg and creates a new State Trails Office with \$41 million to develop major trails in the Commonwealth. We also authorized \$1.0 billion of capital improvements at our Western Hemisphere-leading Port of Virginia. The remaining transportation budget is programmed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. As always, you can reach me at scott@scottsur-ovell.org.

Budget Passes 88-7 in the House

By DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

After many months and long deliberations among the budget conferees, I traveled to Richmond last Wednesday to join my colleagues to take a final vote on the biennial budget. The budget conference report was agreed to by a vote of 32-4 in the Senate, and 88-7 in the House.

You can view the full conference report at budget.lis.virginia.gov or look at The Commonwealth Institute’s side-by-side comparison of House and Senate final budgets with the conference report at <https://thecommonwealthinstitute.org/>.

Now, I will highlight a few of the best funding proposals and some of the shortfalls included in this conference report, in my opinion.

The budget compromise includes a critical increase in the standard deduction, increasing it from \$4,500 for individuals and \$9,000 for joint filers to \$8,000 and

\$16,000, respectively. Although this change will reduce state income from tax revenues by an estimated \$1.6 billion over the two-year budget, this amount is about \$500 million less than the original proposal from Governor Youngkin. In return for this compromise, Senate Democrats achieved a long-time victory of making 15 percent of the earned income tax credit (EITC) refundable for low-income working families in Virginia. Also included are the one-time rebates of \$250 for individual taxpayers and \$500 for families this year, which were first proposed by former Governor Northam in his final budget proposal.

While Governor Youngkin had called for the complete elimination of the grocery tax, the compromise reached calls for cutting the 1.5 percent state tax on groceries, but not the additional 1 percent grocery tax that localities may levy. This agreement will preserve important local funding for public

services.

The budget also makes key investments in mental health and Medicaid services with increased reimbursement rates for group homes and others that provide services to people with mental illness or intellectual or developmental

disabilities, as well as for medical professionals who provide services to Medicaid recipients. In addition, the approximately 1,800 Virginia dentists currently participating in the dental Medicaid program will

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A Connection Newspaper



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 change-maker.

Krizek

FROM PAGE 6

see \$116 million in new state and federal funding dedicated to boosting the lagging reimbursement rates.

State employees, teachers, state-supported local employees, direct-care staff at state behavioral health facilities, correctional officers, and sheriff's deputies will see one-time bonuses and targeted salary relief. The deal preserves a 5% raise each year for those employees, as well as a \$1,000 bonus that the Senate had proposed in its budget. This budget makes historic investments in our public schools with more than \$1 billion in funding for school construction, and funding to allow schools to hire more support staff, reading specialists, and make sure there is a full-time principal in every school. Here in Fairfax County, FCPS will receive \$241 million more in funding over the next two years.

State and local governments also stand to save \$1.85 billion over 20 years in pension costs for public employees; this budget deal proposes depositing \$750 million this year in the Virginia Retirement System and an additional \$250 million in the next budget to pay down unfunded liabilities. The contributions would increase the funded status of state employee and teacher pension plans by 1%.

Another victory is the addition of \$40 million to the Virginia Housing Trust Fund, for a total of \$150 million in the next two years.

Thanks to the hard work of Senators Sur-ovell and Ebbin, the \$2 million for River Farm was also preserved in HB 29 (the ca-boose budget) to fund ADA improvements at the site. Also locally, Good Shepherd Housing will receive \$400k in federal TANF funding.

Regarding areas of concern, \$100 million

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

SEE TRAN, PAGE 12

in funding has been proposed for lab schools without a full plan for implementation in the Commonwealth. While innovations and partnerships in K-12 education are important, we cannot allow these investments at the expense of fully funding our public education system or allowing for the privatization of our public schools.

While I am pleased that this budget provides key investments in public safety by ensuring police officers, corrections officers, deputy sheriffs and other law enforcement personnel are given a much-needed pay raise, and local police departments are provided with funding for training and equipment, I am disappointed in the lack of funding in gun violence prevention programs. Senate Democrats achieved \$8 million in funding in the budget compromise to create the Firearm Violence Intervention and Prevent Grant Fund, but that amount falls far below the \$22 million that was originally in the Senate budget.

I can say that I am disappointed that two of my own initiatives that I fought very hard for did not make the final cut. One is my \$350,000 appropriation to create a Special Assistant for Disability Advocacy in the Governor's office. The other was key funding to outfit the brand new Lee District Community Center here in the 44th district, which just had its grand opening a few weeks ago. I plan to resubmit amendments for this important funding at the next possible opportunity.

Overall, while it falls short in some areas, this budget takes us in the right direction in raising our investments to where we should be and will make a real impact on the issues facing Virginians. Now this final budget approved by the General Assembly will head to the Governor's desk.



SUMMER 2022

JUN
10-12

George Washington's Mount Vernon Summerfest

JUN
11

7th Annual Well Ray Festival

JUN
16

JUL
21

AUG
18

Old Town Art Walk

JUN
17-18

Portside in Old Town Summer Festival

JUN
19

Juneteenth at the Torpedo Factory Art Center

JUN
26

Growing Pride at The Garden

JUL
9

USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration

JUL
9

9th Annual Old Town Pub Crawl hosted by Port City Brewing Co.

JUL
31

The Science Behind Harry Potter Tours at the Apothecary

AUG
6

Friendship Firehouse Festival

AUG
27

Around the World Cultural Festival

For more summer events and activities, check out:
VisitAlexandria.com/Summer

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Great horned owl at Dyke Marsh and young.

Owl Awe

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE CONNECTION

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.

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

Owls have always mystified and intrigued people.



PHOTO BY JANE GAMBLE

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 – sub-urbia, 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

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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

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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 owlets.

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.

Rotary Club Making a Difference

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon presented Pam Tinker with its 2022 "You Make a Difference " award at the Alexandria South Rotary Club meeting.

The award recognizes individuals and organizations who support service to others within the Mount Vernon area. A donation of \$1000 is made to the organization of the recipient's choice.

In 1998, Tinker established the Frog Pond Early Learning Center. Frog Pond is a nature-based preschool enrolling children of all backgrounds and inclusive of children with disabilities. In 1986 she worked on the NVHeadInjury Foundation developing an outpatient program that helped head injury patients transition from the hospital to life in the community. In 1993 she was a founding member of the Alexandria South Rotary Club.

Additionally, her service has included the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber leadership program; Community Advisory Board for United Community Ministries; and the Southeast Fairfax Del-

opment Corporation.

Her beliefs and commitment to building better a better community stem from her background as a member of the Cherokee nation.

Currently Tinker is working with South County Task Force and Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action.

A founding Board member, Tinker chose Rosas Blancas to be the recipient of her Difference award check. "Rosas Blancas is a community-based non-profit connecting residents with the social and human resources necessary for the advancement of the individual and our society. Rosas Blancas believes that achievements, opportunities and growth begin with the individual. Our responsibility is to share knowledge and disseminate information vital to the family and prosperity of communities. The engine that drives the Rosas Blancas is the family and the desire to create a safe and thriving community for all. We believe that our community is a beautiful garden to be cared for and one that all must collectively tend to."

PHOTOS BY HENRY S. WINOKUR 2021



A competitor in the 2021 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics diving competition.



A competitor in the 2021 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics diving competition.

Sign Up for Northern Virginia Senior Olympics

The 2022 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics committee will offer a total of 77 individual events in this year's competition. "Not only are we celebrating our 40th anniversary," said Herb Levitan, NVSO Chair, "but it's also a record year for the number of events that will take place, Sept. 10-24 at 25 venues throughout Northern Virginia."

NVSO began in 1982 with approximately 300 participants and has grown to nearly 900 (pre-Pandemic). Levitan said, "We're expecting a large turnout this year since we had nearly 700 with half the events last year."

Opening day ceremony will take place at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. 2nd St., Arl., Saturday, Sept. 10 at 9:30 a.m. Seven track events and one rowing ERG event will follow the

opening. The public is invited to attend.

A full schedule of events and venues is on the website at www.nvso.us. To participate one must be 50 years old by Dec. 31, 2022 and reside in one of the sponsoring jurisdictions. The registration fee is \$20 which covers an unlimited number of events. There is an added charge for orienteering, cycling and ten pin bowling. Registration will open Wednesday, July 6 and close

Aug. 31. Registration is online only at www.nvso.us. NVSO will follow guidelines set by the CDC, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the local jurisdiction and the individual venues.

NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. For more information, email nvso1982@gmail.com

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JUNE 12

MVUC Greenhouse Plant Sale. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Weekends only. At Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane, Alexandria. The Annual Spring Plant Sale at the MVUC Greenhouse opens April 2 and 3, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., weekends only. They have a variety of vegetables and flowers for sale again this year. Lots of regular and heirloom tomatoes and not-too-hot peppers (more than 20 different varieties) as well as some of your favorite perennials, annuals, and herbs. Visit the lovely, old greenhouse and buy some new plants for your spring garden.

NOW THRU JUNE 26

The "Afros and Abstract" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Celebrates imagination and passion that reaches the expanse of humanity and a movement, encapsulating the amorphous state of color. Join them on opening day (Friday, June 3, 12-9 p.m.) for the widest selection of artwork. Open Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 12-6 p.m. Visit: DelRayArtisans.org.

NOW THRU JULY 9

Retrospective Art Deco Exhibition. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive in Alexandria. The first retrospective on the work of Art Deco designer Edgard Sforzina will open April 30th at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial during the Art Deco Society of Washington's 39th annual Washington Modernism Show. Discount tickets are available at www.washingtonmodernismshow.com.

NOW THRU AUG. 31

Creative Summer Programs. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery in Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Learn techniques in drawing, mixed media, mosaic, jewelry, watercolor, and more from local artists. Delve into creative exploration solo or with friends. Sign up for the programs that inspire you and make your own "stay-cation" art experience. Visit the website: <https://DelRayArtisans.org/programs/creative-summer/>

JUNE 8-26

"Birds of a Feather." 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Lee District Park, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Arts on the Horizon presents Birds of a Feather. Written by Joshua Rashon Streeter and directed by Ryan Sellers. This nonverbal production is best for children ages 3-6 and their families. Visit the website: www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org

THURSDAY/JUNE 9

Ikebana Demonstration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Ikebana artist Katsuko Thielke will give a demonstration on the art of Japanese floral arranging. To purchase tickets, go to: <https://iichapter1.com/>

JUNE 10-12

Mount Vernon Summerfest. 6-9 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. More than 30 craft beers from Virginia breweries are available to sample at Mount Vernon Summerfest. Your



Take an Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour at the Carlyle House on Saturday, June 11, 2022.

ticket includes a commemorative tasting cup and 8 tasting tickets. Additional tastings are available to purchase on-site. Visit mountvernon.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 10

The Late Shift: ALX Pride at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 7 to 10 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. ALX Pride is a community-focused event to celebrate LGBTQ+ creatives in Alexandria and beyond with a night of arts projects along the waterfront and the Union Street entrances as well as throughout the building in a myriad of styles and celebrations.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Floral Design Workshop - Summer Bouquet. 1-2:30 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (16-Adult) Create a beautiful summer flower arrangement with the help of certified floral designer Betty Ann Galway. Learn how to properly care for and handle flowers along with learning creative design ideas. Register for both the class and the supply fee. Bring disinfected shears and a short box or container that will help you transport your arrangement home. \$40 per person (plus \$30 supply fee). Code 0D2.O71Q.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Garden Tour and Ice Cream. 10-11:30 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Tour the vibrant summer gardens with a Green Spring Master Gardener docent. Finish at the Historic House lawn to enjoy delicious ices, served with toppings and garnishes. \$15 per person. Code I7Q.GOTU. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

7th Annual Well Ray Festival. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mt. Vernon Avenue in the Del Ray section of Alexandria. Over 100 health and lifestyle inspired vendors offer demos and sample

treatments such as health screens, massages, acupuncture, physical therapy, nutritional assessments, and reiki energy treatments. Alexandria's best fitness professionals will be offering a variety of 30 minute classes such as yoga, Pilates, HIIT Classes, boxing, Barre, cycling, dance classes, and meditation classes. Food vendors will feature healthy food bites and local retailers will feature wellness related fashion and products. Visit WellRayDelRay.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Garden Talk - Edible Ornamental Garden. 10-11 a.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. (Adults) Make your garden beautiful and tasty with edible plants! Let Extension Master Gardener docents show you many possibilities for incorporating edibles, including veggies, berries and roots into your garden. \$12 per person. Code 239.3CR8.

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour. 10 a.m. At Carlyle House Historic Park, Alexandria. Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Take a tour of Alexandria as we explore looking at the various Architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Call 703-549-2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org

SATURDAY/JUNE 11

Beyond the Battlefield: A Civil War Walking Tour. 9 a.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, Alexandria. This walking tour shares the stories of soldiers, citizens, and self-liberated African Americans in Civil War Alexandria. It covers the military occupation, the conversion of public and private buildings into hospitals, and emancipation. The tour is limited to 12 participants and lasts approximately an hour and a half. Walking tours take place rain or shine so please wear appropriate shoes and clothing. For

more information, call 703-548-1789 or email contact@leefendall-house.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 12

Mosaic Harmony Concert. 5 p.m. At GW Memorial Theater, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. Celebrating the Harmony that Connects Us with special guest GenOUT Youth Chorus. General admission \$30. Visit www.mosaicharmony.org.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 15

"The Manchurian Candidate." 6 p.m. Picnic; 7 p.m. Show begins. At 9000 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Presented by the Picnic Theatre Company and Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House. The Manchurian Candidate is a neo-noir, psychological thriller about the infiltration of the American political system by Russian agents during the Cold War.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

"Tell Me Your Name" Tour at Carlyle House. 5:30 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Join Carlyle House Historic Park staff for a tour focusing on the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and John Carlyle's plantations. The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th-century Alexandria and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants.

THURSDAY/JUNE 16

Steps Toward Freedom: A Juneteenth Remembrance. 5 and 6:30 p.m. At The Secret Garden at the Rectory, 711 Princess St., Alexandria. Exciting artists and a powerful program of beloved spirituals, incredible songs, narration, storytelling and lyrical dance bring to life this new American holiday. After presenting its first Juneteenth concert just a day after Congress voted to make Juneteenth a national holiday, Coalition of African Americans in the Performing Arts partner once again to celebrate this day of joy and liberation. Enjoy a Juneteenth cocktail during this performance.

Visit classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts

JUNE 16-19

"The Royal Revue." At Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Center, 4915 E. Campus Drive, Alexandria. Metropolitan School of the Arts is kicking off summer break with spring dance production featuring popular fairytale princesses and princes in its the Royal Revue at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. More than 450 Metropolitan School of the Arts students will perform the spring production with support from 200 volunteers. Show times: Thurs., June 16, and Fri., June 17 at 6:30 PM; and Sat., June 18 and Sun., June 19 at 12 PM and 5 PM on both days. Go to www.metropolitanarts.org/tickets to purchase tickets.

JUNE 17-18

Alexandria Jazz Festival. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. The 44th Annual Alexandria Jazz Fest will be held Friday, June 17, from 6 to 9 p.m. Festival-goers will be treated to jazz from Cubano Groove, VERONNEAU and the Eric Byrd Trio; plus interludes of poetry by Zeina Azzam, the City's newest Poet Laureate; KaNikki Jakarta, the City's Poet Laureate from 2019 to 2022; and an up-and-coming Alexandria youth poet. The free Portside Festival continues Saturday, June 18, from 1 to 9 p.m. with an array of live music, local craft beer from Port City Brewing Company and fun for the whole family with hands-on art, history activities and more. Visit the Portside Festival website.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Storytime with the Black History Museum. 11 to 11:30 a.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Gather in the reading garden to explore the history of Alexandria's local African American community through books, stories and songs. All are welcome, but the event is geared towards children ages 3-6. Cosponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Juneteenth Jubilee with Culture Queen. 12 to 1 p.m. At Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria. Join Grammy-nominated performer Culture Queen for an interactive musical storytelling show and learn the meaning of the Juneteenth holiday. Open to all ages. Cosponsored by the Alexandria Black History Museum and the Office of Historic Alexandria as part of Celebrate Juneteenth 2022.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Under the Same Roof: Enslaved and Free Servants at the Lee-Fendall House. 2 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore the Lee-Fendall House from the perspectives of the enslaved and free African Americans who lived and worked in the home as domestic servants, both before and after the Civil War. Hear the stories of how they built and shaped the Lee-Fendall House over the course of its history. For your safety and for those around you, face masks

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CALENDAR

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are required. The tour is limited to 8 participants. Tickets must be purchased in advance and are \$10 per person. Members of Lee-Fendall House can attend for free but must call (703) 548-1789 or email contact@leefendallhouse.org to make a reservation.

SATURDAY/JUNE 18

Juneteenth Celebration. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Guest speakers Teri Speight and Abra Lee will discuss the past, present and future of Black garden clubs in Virginia, and environmental educator Maya Alexander will highlight the benefits of natural spaces for the Black community. During the panel discussion, there will be a mini farmer's market and activity tables for children to enjoy. After lunch, join a garden walk or seed planting session. Pack a picnic or pre-order from local restaurant Granddaddy's Skillet. Call 703-642-5173.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N Union St., Alexandria. America's second Independence Day is a time to celebrate, reflect and learn about the end of slavery in the United States. It's a celebration of freedom and also an opportunity to deepen our awareness of the nation's legacy of systemic racism and oppression. Join artists at the Art Center for a shared community

space in the Grand Hall to create artistic messages with your loved ones.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth Celebration with Vocalist Tomika Arnold. 1:30 to 2:15 p.m. At Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave., Alexandria. Join in a Juneteenth celebration of Black music featuring a performance of gospel, R&B, and blues standards by DC native vocalist, songwriter and author Tomika Arnold. The performance will take place in the garden at Duncan Library.

SUNDAY/JUNE 19

Juneteenth Celebration at Carlyle House. 12 to 4 p.m. At the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Presented in collaboration with C. Alexandria-Bernard Thomas and The Athenaeum, the event will be held outside in the gardens, on the lawn and the tented terrace of the Carlyle House, located in the heart of Old Town. Discover the history of Juneteenth through live music, hands-on activities, art, history and poetry readings. Activities are part of the planned offerings for the day that marks the liberation of Black Americans on June 19, 1865.

JUNE 22-25

MVBA Summer Basketball Camp at Walt Whitman MS. Co-Ed. Ages 5-14 Years Old. June 22-25, June 27-July 1, July 5-8. Camp Hours from 9 AM-3 PM. For information, email us at markvincentbasketball

academy@gmail.com or visit our website markvincentbasketballcamps.com.

THE BIRCHMERE

At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

JUNE

Thu. Jun. 9: Dixie Longate: "Cherry Bombs & Bottle Rockets" \$35/\$85(VIP)
Fri. Jun. 10: Tusk - The Ultimate Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band \$45.00
Sun. Jun. 12: Gaelic Storm \$45.00
Mon. Jun. 13: We Three \$35.00
Wed. Jun. 15: Debbie Gibson: "The Body Remembers Tour" \$59.50
Fri. Jun. 17: NRBO and Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun \$45.00
Sat. Jun. 18: SOS Band \$69.50
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Wed/Thu. Jun. 22&23: Lalah Hathaway \$89.50
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Sat. Jun. 25: Pieces of a Dream \$45.00
Sun. Jun. 26: The Music of Cream featuring Will Johns and Kofi Baker Performing Disraeli Gears & Clapton Classics \$35.00
Mon. Jun. 27: Molly Tuttle & Golden Highway \$39.50
Wed. Jun. 29: Dave Mason 'World In Changes' \$59.50

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

TUESDAY/JUNE 21

1950 Census and Genealogy. 1-3 p.m. Via Zoom. National Archives researcher, Claire Kluskens, will provide an overview of the newly released 1950 census. She'll demonstrate how to use the census in your family history research. Free. Visit the website: www.mvgenealogy.org.

MT. VERNON FARMERS MARKET IS NOW OPEN

The market is located at the Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. From 8 a.m. to noon every Wednesday (through December 21), 18 farmers and local food producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more.

This year's vendors are:

Arnest Seafood - crab cakes, scallops, shrimp, rockfish, oysters and more
The Fermented Pig- charcuterie and gourmet bacons
Grace's Pastries - cakes, pastries and breads, with a Caribbean touch
Great Harvest Bread - breads and pastries
Honey Brook Farms - meats and vegetables raised with no chemicals, gluten-free baked goods
House of Empanadas - variety of

empanadas
King Mushrooms - variety of locally grown mushrooms
Layla's Lebanese Restaurant - Lebanese hummus, eggplant dip, garlic sauce and more
Linda Vista Farm - fruits and vegetables, specializing in Asian and Latin produce
Memis - gluten-free paellas, quiches and more
Misty Meadow Farm Creamery - milk, ice cream, cheese and eggs
Ochoa Produce - vegetables, herbs and flowers
Salsa Las Glorias - fresh salsas, guacamole and chips
Sharkawi Farm - herbs, spices, teas, plants and flowers
Three Way Farms - vegetables, melons and herbs
Traveling Shepherd Coffee Co. - variety of freshly roasted coffee
Twin Springs Orchard - fruits, vegetables, cheese and more
Valentine's Bakery & Meats - meats and baked goods.
All of the items sold at the market are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within a radius of 125 miles. The McCutcheon/Mt. Vernon market is one of 10 farmers markets run by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA); for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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Obituary

Margaret Ellen Dring (Peggy)

Peggy died peacefully, at home with her husband and friends on May 17, 2022, at the age of 75, following a recurrence of cancer.

A graduate of The Grier School and Hood College, Peggy joined the Defense Intelligence Agency and was posted to Bogota, Colombia, where she met her husband-to-be. They were married in 1972 and would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this September. Peggy patiently saw her husband through college at Georgetown University and later at Georgetown Law, and in 1980 started her own interior design business, Peggy Dring Interiors, Inc., which she ran for the next 40 years. Her business focused almost exclusively on Old Town, Alexandria homes, and while catering to a wide variety of design styles, her favorite was the Empire Period. Peggy was beautiful, thoughtful and engaging. It was always a joy to be in her company. She will be greatly missed. Arrangements for a memorial Mass will be announced at a future time.

Obituary

Rose Marie Laue Christensen, 89 years old and living at the Fairfax Retirement Community, passed away surrounded by her family on May 27, 2022 at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital.

Rose Marie was born on February 16, 1933 to Augusta Pauline Rabe and Herman Frederick Laue on a farm near Palmer, Kansas. The family moved from the farm to Greenleaf, Kansas which she considered her home town. She was the second youngest of 6 children and is survived by her older sister, Erlyne Snow. Rose married John Edward Christensen of Waterville, Kansas in 1951. John joined the Army and Rose began the life of the military wife. She had three children, all boys, John Edward, Paul Evan and David Edgar. John had childhood leukemia and passed at age 3 in 1956. Paul is married to Chong Hui Christensen and David is married to Lethu Christensen. Rose has three grandchildren from Paul's marriage, Danielle, Amanda and John. Amanda is married to Jonathan Graef and John is married to Tara Purdham. John and Tara gave Rose two great-grandchildren, Natalie and Noah. Rose also has two step-grandchildren from David's marriage, Andrew and Monica.

Rose Marie raised her children and began work with the federal government in 1977 as a clerk typist. She returned to college in the early 1980's and earned her Bachelor of Science diploma from the University of Maryland in 1986. Rose continued to advance in her career and retired in 2003 after 26 years as a GS13. Her last position prior to retirement was as Manager of the Army's Freedom of Information Office. After retirement from the government Rose continued to work part time at Curves, where she would assist others with their workouts.

Rose was devoted to her family and many other causes including Meals on Wheels, Red Cross and she loved animals. Rose learned to scuba dive and snow ski. She went on a 10-day white water rafting trip down the Colorado River when she was in her 60's and traveled to the Amazon in her 70's. Rose had a strong connection to her religion and one high light of her life was being able to travel to Israel to see where Christ lived and preached.

Rose was well known for caring for and helping others and putting her whole heart into anything she tried to do. She had a sharp wit and was never shy in speaking her mind.

Viewing and services will be held at Demaine Funeral Home in Alexandria, VA, on June 18th. More information is available at DemaineFuneralHomes.com or DignityMemorial.com.



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An expert is someone who knows some
of the worst mistakes that can be made
in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 11

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM VOLUNTEERS. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) needs scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians to assist K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) teachers in the Northern Virginia Area, during the 2016-17 school year. In the 2015-16 school year, the numbers of STEM volunteers in Northern Virginia were: Fairfax County - 40, Arlington - 20, and Alexandria - one. Details of the collaboration are worked out between the teacher and the volunteer, and may involve giving demonstrations, assisting in lab experiments, lecturing on special topics, assisting with homework, etc. The hours are flexible, and volunteers attend a one-day training in September before being assigned to schools. To see how volunteers are assisting their teachers, view the video clips at www.seniorscientist.org. To volunteer, contact donaldrea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

United Community (formerly UCM), 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, seeks volunteers for Food Pantry assistance, Early Learning Center teacher aides, basic needs counselors, youth tutors and mentors, office administration/data entry, and community outreach. Flexible hours and schedules. Opportunities for all ages to serve, including community service hours. More info at ucmagency.org/volunteer-opportunities or email volunteer@ucmagency.org.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster

dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Line Dance Instructor needed for the Gum Springs Senior Program once a week on either Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. Volunteer Solutions, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711.

Volunteer Fairfax makes it easy for individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs to volunteer. Fulfill hours, give back, or pay it forward through a variety service options. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Fairfax County's Community Services Board is seeking volunteer office assistants. Volunteers are needed to assist CSB staff with greeting guests, making reminder phone calls, data entry, filing, shredding, stocking shelves, and other duties as needed. Hours are flexible, but would be during normal business hours. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

Yoga Teachers are needed. Help improve a person's well-being by teaching yoga classes to adults who are staying in a residential facility. The day/time is flexible, but would be during the week. Prior yoga instruction is required. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/csb/viva/volunteers.htm for more.

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711

or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfax-county.gov.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Gum Springs Senior Program in Alexandria is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults in Alexandria needs Instructors for the following classes: Country-Western Line Dance, Hula Hoop and African Style Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center in Alexandria needs instructors for the following classes: Basic Woodworking, Italian and Ballroom Dance. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Mount Vernon Adult Day Health Care Center in Alexandria needs front desk volunteers and patient Card Players. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Advisory Board of the Joe and Fredona Gartlan Center for mental health is looking for volunteers. The board meets the second Tuesday of the month from 9-11 a.m. at Gartlan Center 8119 Holland Road.

Tran

FROM PAGE 7

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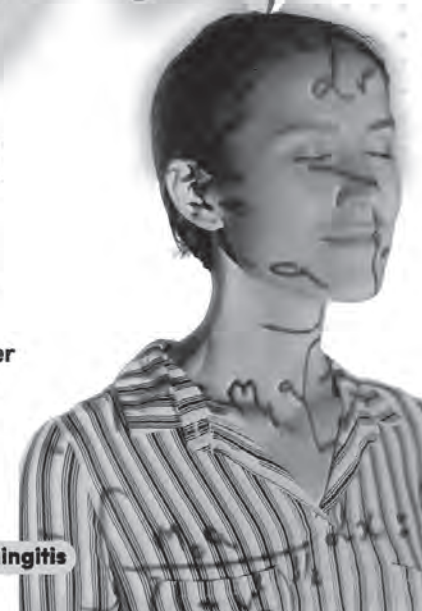
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It's My Idea, and I Do Think Much Of It

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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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 GAZETTE

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.

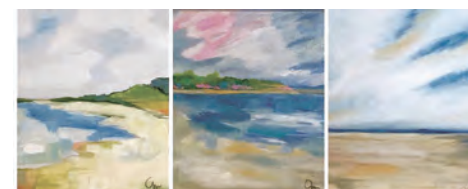


PHOTO COURTESY OF GRETCHEN FUSS

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 Bahktari 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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