

Potomac ALMANAC

Living With Wildlife

PAGE 4



Raccoon at a
bird feeder.

Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS FROM BRIGHT MLS



6 10837 South Glen Road — \$2,250,000



3 8925 Harvest Square Court — \$2,850,000



7 10613 Willowbrook Drive — \$2,150,000



2 9812 Bencross Drive — \$3,900,000



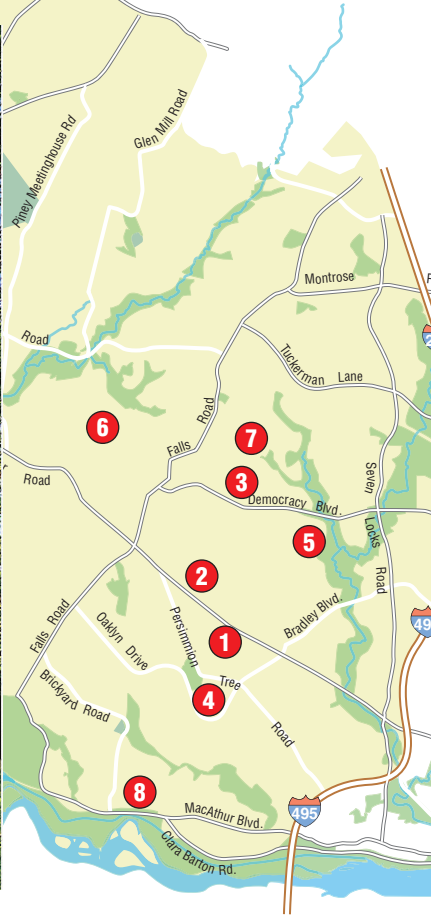
5 4 Hartman Court — \$2,535,000

May, 2022 Top Sales

IN MAY, 2022, 76 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD
BETWEEN \$7,400,000-\$670,000.



1 9300 River Road — \$7,400,000



8 7200 Brookstone Court — \$2,077,000

Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City.....	Sold Price...	Type.....	Lot AC.	Postal Code ...	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
1 9300 RIVER RD	9...	8...	4...	POTOMAC		\$7,400,000 ...	Detached..	2.85.....	20854...	BRADLEY FARMS...	05/10/22
2 9812 BENTCROSS DR.....	8...	8...	2...	POTOMAC		\$3,900,000 ...	Detached..	3.03.....	20854.....	FALCONHURST ...	05/10/22
3 8925 HARVEST SQUARE CT..	8...	7...	2...	POTOMAC		\$2,850,000 ...	Detached..	2.00.....	20854...	KENTSDALE ESTS ..	05/10/22
4 8402 RAPLEY RIDGE LN	6...	5...	2...	POTOMAC		\$2,800,000 ...	Detached..	0.50.....	20854.....	AVENEL	05/13/22
5 4 HARTMAN CT	6...	6...	1...	POTOMAC		\$2,535,000 ...	Detached..	0.49.....	20854.....	MCAULEY PARK	05/02/22
6 10837 SOUTH GLEN RD	6...	4...	1...	POTOMAC		\$2,250,000 ...	Detached..	2.00.....	20854..	POTOMAC OUTSIDE .	05/11/22
7 10613 WILLOWBROOK DR....	5...	4...	1...	POTOMAC		\$2,150,000 ...	Detached..	2.04.....	20854...	KENTSDALE ESTS ..	05/16/22
8 7200 BROOKSTONE CT	5...	5...	2...	POTOMAC		\$2,077,000 ...	Detached..	2.23.....	20854....	MAZZA WOODS	05/31/22

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[HTTP://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/NEWS/2022/JUL/11/POTOMAC-HOME-SALES-MAY-2022/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2022/jul/11/potomac-home-sales-may-2022/)

Another Week, Another Storm, Another Aftermath



The control module for the traffic light was ripped away from its connections and foundations by the storm. This stop sign was controlling the intersection the next day.



PHOTO BY MARY KIMM

This buck was crossing MacArthur Boulevard in a leisurely way a day after July 8-9 storms.

Naval Support Facility Carderock entrance off of MacArthur Boulevard, early this morning water from Rock Run overflowed Banks & bridge, water has receded, but left a debris field & some damage/erosion in its wake.



PETE PRINGER VIA TWITTER



It wasn't possible to drive down Bradley Blvd between River and Seven Locks Roads on July 8-9 as many inches of rain fell in Potomac and parts of Bethesda. Note the height of the water compared to the guardrails.



"Goldsboro Road River" by Dave Dildine WTOP via twitter, @dildineWTOP

Smart Growth America Shows Roads Are Dangerous by Design

Today, Smart Growth America released "Dangerous by Design" documenting the dangers faced by pedestrians on America's roads. "The Coalition for Smarter Growth urges every official in the DC region, Maryland, and Virginia, to read this report and to make safety for pedestrians

and bicyclists on our streets a top priority," said Stewart Schwartz, Executive Director. <https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

In the past week, two pedestrians were killed in Fairfax County, bringing the total number of pedestrians killed in 2022 to 12,

Officers responded at 10:20

p.m. July 6 for a pedestrian struck on Richmond Highway near Huntington Avenue in the Mount Vernon area. Doris Anita McPhail, 56, of Alexandria, was struck by an SUV. She died the next morning in the hospital.

Keith Thomas, 24, was killed in a crash that occurred at 1:28 a.m., Friday, July 8 on Richmond High-

way over the ramp from northbound I-95 to northbound Richmond Highway.

According to the report, national statistics show:

Pedestrian fatalities are up 62% since 2009, totalling 64,073 deaths.

Pedestrian fatalities increased 4.7% in 2020 over 2019 and pre-

liminary data shows 7485 deaths in 2021, a 40-year high.

Arterial highways – think Route 1, Route 355, Route 50, Georgia Avenue, and Route 7 in the DC region – comprise 15% of all lane miles in the U.S. but 67% of pedestrian deaths.

During the pandemic, as SEE SMART GROWTH, PAGE 7

WILDLIFE

Live in Harmony with Wildlife, for Our Benefit and Theirs

From skinks to skunks, many wildlife species thrive in suburbia.

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH
THE ALMANAC

In mid-June, a photograph of a black bear near Belle View Boulevard 10th and 11th Streets in New Alexandria popped up on the NextDoor social platform.

Last week, a juvenile black rat snake got stuck in Alyssa Pease's car door frame, perhaps the offspring of a larger one that suns on her front steps in Tauxemont. A bird built a nest and raised four young on a pedestal cat bed on the back porch of another Tauxemont home in June.

White-tail deer and red foxes regularly visit Williamsburg Manor resident Greg Crider. Snapping turtles dig nests and lay eggs in the River Towers condos' backyard.

Many Northern Virginians find that deer have munched their shrubs, hostas and pansies. These deer are the largest wild animal in Fairfax County and "thrive in human-altered landscapes," according to the county's Field Guide to Plants and Wildlife. Skunks too have adapted to varied habitats and with a highly developed sense of touch, can raid garbage cans, bird feeders and fish ponds.

Raccoons, largely active at night, have also adapted to many environments and in urban areas will eat garbage, bird seed and pet food.

There are many reports of foxes denning under decks or sheds, and trotting about the 'burbs.

Pease recently found an unfamiliar Birkenstock sandal in some leaves behind her house which she assumes was a fox at work. In the spring and early summer, foxes are known to take objects to their young as "chew toys," things like newspapers in plastic bags, bones and toys. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources biologists say that the rise in coyote populations has likely pushed more foxes into urban and suburban areas because coyotes do not tolerate foxes.



White-tail deer photo taken by a wildlife camera in Northern Virginia.

From skinks to skunks, many wildlife species thrive in suburbia and other human-altered environments, but that does not mean that people and wildlife have to be in conflict.

"Treating every nonhuman living organism in the city like a nuisance – you're fighting an uphill battle," Seattle University professor Mark Jordan told the March 24, 2020, Washington Post. "It does not behoove you to try to eradicate all the animals in the city. You'll never win. You need to find better ways to coexist with them."

Free Ecological Services

To some people, some wildlife might be bothersome, but these animals provide ecological services, for free. A little brown bat

can eat up to 3,000 insects, including mosquitoes, in one night.

While snakes have often been villainized (think Eve's transgression in the Garden of Eden and Medusa's hair), snakes "are an integral part of our natural environment ... and keep the insect and rodent populations in check," says a Fairfax County Park Authority brochure. Vultures clean up roadkill. Land flooded by beaver dams can become more fire resistant. Birds disperse seeds that provide food, plants, timber and recreation.

Insects are the "little things that run the world," the late Edmund O. Wilson, a biologist, explained. Their pollination services are critical to the reproduction of over 85 percent of the world's flowering plants, including more than two-thirds of the world's



Bear in Mount Vernon area posted on NextDoor.

From: Trudy_Roth@nps.gov, Volunteer and Youth Program Coordinator, George Washington Memorial Parkway

crop species, says the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. Insects also spread seeds, aerate the soil, recycle nutrients and facilitate decomposition.

Living with Wildlife

All wildlife species need adequate food, water and shelter. As altered habitats and lack of predators force some wildlife out of their natural homes, some human-wildlife interaction is inevitable. Making changes

SEE WILDLIFE, PAGE 6



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

A "blond" squirrel in the Mount Vernon area.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

A chipmunk nibbling on a walnut.

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PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

A black rat snake sunning in a tree.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Fox kits nursing in the author's yard.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

A fox kit resting near a wall in the author's yard.

Live in Harmony with Wildlife

FROM PAGE 4

in habitat, like destroying native trees and plants, fragmenting forests with houses, trails and roads can cause wildlife to move out of their traditional home territories.

"Habitat loss is the greatest single factor adversely affecting wildlife populations today," reports the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR). Over 900 wildlife species in the state are in decline.

Most wildlife species do not naturally prey on people or pets and are wary of humans. The Washington region is rich with wildlife, Smithsonian ecologist Bill McShea told the Washington Post in 2020, and most wildlife species stay hidden. Wildlife experts encourage people to try to peacefully live with wildlife, understand their behavior and understand when a problem is in fact a problem and when a problem is serious.

DWR Executive Director Ryan Brown advises, "Most human-wildlife interactions, of course, result in memorable experiences and are nothing but positive in nature. However, in any interactions in any setting, it's important that our first goal be to keep our wildlife wild. In all but the select cases where intervention is necessary, the best course of action is to simply enjoy the experience of observation with as little disturbance to them as possible.

"Wildlife contribute to the biological diversity of our ecosystems, spur recreational pursuits that benefit our economy and enhance our overall quality of life," explains Brown.

Animals are part of the web of life. Each species has a niche and behaviors unique to that species. Let them be wild, authorities say.



MIKE CARLO, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Raccoon at a bird feeder

A Few Do's and Don'ts

DO NOT

Feed wildlife. They will lose their natural fear of humans.

Leave pet food outside.

Approach an animal if it is acting aggressively or strangely. Contact local animal control officers.

Separate a mother from her young.

DO

Secure trash cans and keep trash inside until close to pickup time.

Screen your home's openings, like attics and window wells. Close garages and sheds at night.

Keep cats indoors. Outside, they are at risk of predation by coyotes and other wildlife. Cats kill birds and small animals. Do not support feral cat colonies.

Remove bird feeders if species such as bears are seen around them.

Clear fallen fruit from around trees.

Clean barbecue grills.

Seek medical advice if you have been scratched or bitten by an animal.

Plant native plants and strive for biodiversity.

RESOURCES

Wildlife Habitat, <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/habitat/>

GetHelp with Wildlife, <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/> and 855-571-9003.

Wildlife Rescue League, includes rehabilitators, <https://www.wildliferescueleague.org/>

Fairfax County, <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/>; <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/specializedunits/animalprotectionpolice>



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Fox with the Mount Vernon Gazette.



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

Common five-lined skink. Blue tails fade as they mature.

Smart Growth America Shows Roads Are Dangerous by Design

FROM PAGE 3

traffic congestion went down, more drivers drove faster and death rates went up.

Places that were less friendly to walking before the pandemic had significantly higher increases in pedestrian fatalities during the pandemic compared to places that supported higher rates of walking pre-pandemic.

People of color, particularly Native and Black Americans are more likely to die while walking.

Lower income people and older people are more likely to die while walking.

“Despite better relative rankings than many parts of the U.S. the DC region is still seeing too many deaths and serious injuries to pedestrians and cyclists, and like other parts of the country, our suburban arterial roads are particularly dangerous. That’s why Coalition for Smarter Growth has partnered with CASA in a campaign to make Route 7 in Baileys Crossroads safer, helping the Gum Springs community’s fight for a safer Route 1 in Fairfax, and working together with the Northern Virginia Families for Safe Streets and Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling for safer streets across Northern Virginia,” said Sonya Breehey, CSG’s Northern Virginia Advocacy Manager.

“Similarly, we support Action Committee for Transit’s fight for safer streets in Montgomery County and are working for safer streets in Prince George’s, which have some of the highest rates

of pedestrian injuries and deaths in the region,” said Jane Lyons, Coalition for Smarter Growth’s Maryland Advocacy Manager.

Areas in this region which have higher percentages of people of color and lower-income households, experience disproportionately more fatalities of pedestrians and crashes on arterials than the rest of the region, said Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth Senior Policy Fellow.

“Unfortunately, VDOT and MDOT, and many local departments of transportation are not taking the sort of swift and concerted action necessary to make our streets safer. They continue to prioritize vehicle speed and movement over safety, and routinely push back on redesigning our streets – especially our very dangerous arterials to make them safer for people walking, biking, rolling, and using transit,” said Schwartz.

Sonya Breehey concluded, “SGA documents why design matters and we urge a transformation in how our state and local departments of transportation design our streets – using the design guidance from NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) instead of the car-dominant AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials). Funding should be shifted from highway and arterial expansion to redesigning our arterials and streets to make them safer for all users.”

<https://smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/>

Back in the Cancer Business



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that as an active cancer patient still undergoing treatment you’re ever out, but occasionally, there are intervals where you are less in/have less frequent cancer-centric activities. And it’s important to never let these intervals pass without elevating their importance. A break/brake in any cancer-related action is welcome relief and acknowledging its occurrence is paramount. When you’re living in the cancer world, you must find ways to find the most positive element of your rather negative experience. And if the most positive element of that experience is that absolutely nothing happened/is happening, don’t ever take it for granted. Take it for every advantage, rationalization, and accommodation possible. Any port in a storm is how many of us cancer patients roll, and the more often the roll, the better.

And for those of you who have unfortunately been effected/associated with cancer, you know the storm of chaos and disruption that its diagnosis causes. Talk about upheaval. Your orderly world goes topsy-turvy and everything you knew/understood before the diagnosis no longer applies. There’s the pre-cancer you and the post-diagnosis you. In many cases, you’re different people. It’s as if your brain is rewired. Moreover, assimilating a cancer diagnosis into your regular routine is hardly for the weak of mind. Unless you find a way to incorporate cancer into your life and minimize its deleterious effects, especially emotionally, the sooner some of the more debilitating physical challenges can be relegated somehow.

It’s not simply taking the good with bad – or vice-versa, it’s taking it all in stride and being grateful for any morsel of good news/lack of cancer activities whereby you can try to forget you have cancer and live as normal and rewarding a life as your deficits allow. It’s not exactly making lemonade, but you’re definitely making something. And what’s that something? Peace, that’s what. Acceptance and comfort. Learning to live within your cancer confines (lab work, treatment/medication, side effects, scans, miscellaneous doctor’s appointments, and a pre-occupation with your own mortality) and treat it like any other day – or interval of time. It may be your life, but it doesn’t have to define you.

If you have minimal cancer stuff, celebrate it. If you have maximum cancer stuff – as I do in 10 days, give in to it. There’s nothing to be done about it other than adhere to the schedule. Once you have cancer and are scheduled into the various ongoing/recurring appointments/responsibilities, unless you make light of it, the weight of it will crush you. Cancer is an equal opportunity villain. It goes after everybody everywhere with seemingly no rhyme or reason or sometimes, all the reasons (family history, environmental, smoking/second-hand smoke). It’s not inevitable, but it is undesirable. Avoiding it altogether would be best. If only it were that simple.

Often cancer is in control even as your doctors are treating it/you. Finding a way to balance the ebb and flow, and to not take the lows too hard and try to keep an even keel when there is some good news (it’s hardly a guarantee of future results, it may even be temporary; it’s a tease almost) seems the only logical pursuit. What you can’t control, you need to accommodate, and in that accommodation, you must find your level, a way to remain level-headed throughout your ordeal. (And cancer is nothing if not an ordeal.) Otherwise, you’ll make an excruciatingly bad situation worse, if that’s even possible. And believe me, it’s possible, and there’s no future in that.

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

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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