

April 2024

# COMMUNITY NEWS

Chantilly Heights | 3925 Downs Drive, Chantilly VA 20151 | 703-810-3992



## St. Patrick's Day Party



## FAMILY EVENT

Please join us for our Spring Fling Garden Party. This event is for all residents and family members. It will be held in our Bridges Neighborhood. Please bring an item to be added to our community garden. We'll be collecting flowers, plants, garden flags, and any type of garden decoration.

Chef Wendell will be preparing a wonderful spread of food, and Bryan Langerud will be entertaining us with his wonderful music. We hope to see you there! Don't miss the fun.



## Employee of The Month



**Sam Bhandari**

## Unraveling the Art of Tatting



While a handkerchief, table runner, doily, or collar made of intricate knotted lace appears nearly impossible to construct, the art of tatting is easy to learn. All you need to start tatting is thread, a shuttle (a small device

that helps guide a silk thread through loops into knots), and your two hands. Give it a try on April 1, International Tatting Day.

This decorative art form may have grown from the netting and ropework handmade by sailors and fishermen of olden times. Tatting became fashionable in the 1800s and enjoyed a surge in popularity during the 1950s and 1960s. Technology has usurped the handiwork required to make tatted lace, which means that handmade tatting is more precious than ever.



# EASTER FESTIVITIES



## April Birthdays

4/5 Joan Fogarty

4/8 John Zimmerman

4/19 Tom Switzer



## For the Love of Birds



Many have heard of the Audubon Society and know it as an environmental organization dedicated to studying and preserving birds and their natural habitats. The organization is named after John James Audubon, the French American painter of birds who dedicated his

life to his unique art. His birthday, April 26, is now celebrated as Audubon Day.

Audubon showed an affinity for birds starting in childhood. He spent hours roaming the countryside, collecting birds' nests and eggs, and drawing them once he returned home. Audubon's father was a sailor and hoped his son would join the navy, so John James went to military school. However, he suffered from seasickness and so returned to the woods.

In 1803, the Napoleonic Wars broke out in France. Audubon's father obtained a fake passport and sent John James to America to avoid the war. It was at his family's farm in Pennsylvania that Audubon devoted himself full-time to the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and drawing birds.

Audubon was obsessed with birds. In an effort to study their habits, he tied string around their legs to see if they returned year after year. He learned the art of taxidermy and worked in natural museums. But his greatest contribution to ornithology was his brilliant book *Birds of America*. He dedicated his life to drawing every single bird in America. His style was new and different: a highly detailed drawing of each bird, more accurate than ever before. His drawings were life-sized, with some pages over three feet tall and two feet wide. After 14 years of traveling the entire country, Audubon drew over 700 species of birds. *Birds of America* is often considered the greatest picture book ever made, and original copies have sold for over \$10 million. How's that for a nest egg?

## April Birthdays

If you were born between April 1–19, you are Aries, the Ram. These independent adventurers like to strike out on their own and are natural leaders. Their enthusiasm and confidence give them big, outgoing personalities. Those born between April 20–30 are Bulls of Taurus. Bulls show a steady persistence in endeavors both professional and personal, and after working hard, they like to reward themselves for a job well done.

Emmylou Harris (musician) – April 2, 1947  
Marlon Brando (actor) – April 3, 1924  
James D. Watson (scientist) – April 6, 1928  
Jackie Chan (actor) – April 7, 1954  
Beverly Cleary (author) – April 12, 1916  
Queen Elizabeth II (royalty) – April 21, 1926  
Barbra Streisand (entertainer) – April 24, 1942  
Kelly Clarkson (singer) – April 24, 1982  
Jay Leno (comedian) – April 28, 1950  
Duke Ellington (pianist) – April 29, 1899

