

March 2025

# COMMUNITY NEWS

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

## VALENTINE'S DAY



## Come Join Us for the Lively, Upbeat Sounds of DC Ambiance!

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM | Friday, 14 March, 2025

DC Ambiance are accomplished musicians arranging and performing in the Django Reinhardt tradition. Their sound is described as a gentle and sophisticated approach to gypsy jazz.

Featuring: 2 guitars, concertina, and rotating special guests

Hors d'oeuvres and mocktails will be served along with the performance!

## Don't miss this vibrant, musical experience!

RSVP by Tuesday, March 11, 2025 to Michelle Mindock at  
[mmindock@chantillyheights.com](mailto:mmindock@chantillyheights.com) or 703-498-0588

## Everyday Shakespeare

In his play *Julius Caesar*, William Shakespeare warned, “Beware the Ides of March” (March 15). Lucky for all lovers of the bard that Shakespeare Week falls from March 24 to March 30.



Shakespeare Week was begun in 2014 by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in England. Its goal is to make Shakespeare delightful, not dull. His works are part of the curriculum for half of the world’s schoolchildren. For many, the writings

of Shakespeare are remembered as difficult, mandatory high school reading. But, in Shakespeare’s day, his plays were considered bawdy, coarse, and boisterous, and theaters were often dirty, loud, and very crowded—some holding crowds of up to 3,000 people. A three-hour play was considered a rollicking good time. Shakespeare knew his audience.

Though many now consider Shakespeare’s plays to be examples of great literature, a part of high culture, or difficult to understand, Shakespeare wrote to his audience—many of whom were common folks just like himself. He was sure to include plenty of jokes, fights, love triangles, and off-color remarks.

Shakespeare has seeped into our everyday life. Many common expressions were written by Shakespeare, including:

- “Wild goose chase” (*Romeo and Juliet*)
- “Seen better days” (*As You Like It*)
- “Off with his head.” (*Richard III*)
- “Good riddance.” (*Troilus and Cressida*)
- “Knock, knock! Who’s there?” (*Macbeth*)
- “Break the ice.” (*The Taming of the Shrew*)

Utter one of these phrases between March 24 and March 30, and you might be celebrating Shakespeare Week without even knowing it.

## PET THERAPY WITH CHRIS & SAWYER



## A Tale of Two Names



Istanbul or Constantinople? The largest city in Turkey has struggled with its name for centuries. The Greek colonist Byzas founded the city as Byzantium around 700 BC. It was renamed Constantinople in AD 330,

when Roman emperor Constantine made it the capital of the Roman Empire. The name persisted until 1453, when the city was overtaken by the Ottoman Turks and renamed Istanbul. Yet most Turks, even in an official capacity, referred to the city as *Kostantiniyye*—which many still confused with Constantinople. It wasn’t until March 28, 1930, that the Turkish Postal Service decreed it would no longer send mail to any place addressed as Constantinople. It has been Istanbul ever since.

## Chasing Cherry Blossoms



It lasts for only two weeks, but what a beautiful two weeks it is. *Hanami* is the Japanese term for enjoying the spring beauty of blossoming flowers.

The most spectacular show of all is the viewing of the cherry blossoms, known as *sakura* by day and *yozakura* by night. It begins at the end of March.

The practice of hanami began in seventh-century Japan, when wealthy elites and members of the Imperial court would gather to view plum blossoms. Soon, though, cherry blossoms became more highly regarded for their beauty. Before long, members of the “samurai class” joined in the viewing, and finally the practice became widespread among all people—rich or poor. The cherry blossom has even become Japan’s unofficial national flower.

The blossoming of the cherry trees also ushers in an entire season of hanami parties. Many rush to parks and reserve spots, relaxing under the blossoming trees with blankets. The most popular spot in the country for hanami is Tokyo’s Ueno Park, where there are more than 1,000 flowering cherry trees. Japan’s best hanami location may be the mountaintop town of Yoshino, where thousands of cherry trees burst into bloom and a veil of pink flowers resembling clouds slowly floats down the mountainside. The tiny lanes of this sleepy village become packed with visitors.

America’s most famous version of hanami begins every March in Washington, D.C. In 1911, the city of Toyko gifted 2,000 cherry trees to the U.S. Sadly, those trees were infested with insects and had to be destroyed. But Tokyo mayor Yukio Ozaki was undeterred. He sent a new shipment of 3,020 cherry trees, which arrived in Washington on March 26, 1912. Visitors have flocked to D.C.’s Tidal Basin to enjoy the cherry blossoms ever since.

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH



**Journee Guadalupe**

## Barbie Beyond the Box



On March 9, 1959, the Mattel toy company unveiled the first Barbie doll at the American Toy Fair. Ruth Handler, cofounder of Mattel, was inspired to create the doll after observing her daughter prefer paper dolls of adult women over baby dolls. Barbie became the first adult doll for kids—and the star of the first TV ad aimed at children. While Barbie has faced

criticism for promoting gender stereotypes and unrealistic body proportions, the toy has generated over \$1.5 billion in sales.

In 2023, Barbie’s cultural impact reached new heights with the release of the *Barbie* movie, directed by Greta Gerwig. The film’s vibrant visuals, sharp humor, and exploration of identity captivated audiences worldwide, cementing Barbie’s status as both a toy and a cultural icon.

## Marching to a Healthy Beat



March is Nutrition Month, a month to ditch the junk food, add exercise, and take on healthier habits. An easy place to start is to eat more fruits, whole grains, and vegetables.

Having fresh fruit and vegetables in your home is a simple way to add healthy vitamins and nutrients to your diet. Another excellent step is eating food in reasonable portions, as well as eating a variety of foods.

A daily exercise routine, even something as simple as a daily walk, increases fitness. Studies show that as fitness increases, mood improves, energy increases, stress decreases, we have the strength and endurance to do the things we enjoy, and we look and feel our best. Perhaps it is no coincidence that March is also Quinoa Month (pronounced *KEEN-wah*). This ancient seed, harvested high in the Andes Mountains, is one of nature's most perfect foods. In 1955, researcher Philip White wrote, "While no single food can supply all the essential life sustaining nutrients, quinoa comes as close as any other in the plant or animal kingdom." That's high praise for an often-overlooked food.

Quinoa is called a grain and is cooked like a grain, but it is not a grain at all. From a botanical point of view, quinoa is more closely related to beets and spinach. It is a complete protein, gluten free, and rich in potassium. The ancient Incas called it the "mother of all grains" and considered it sacred. It can be found today in breads, crackers, granola, beverages, pasta, and even shampoo. It's a nutritive powerhouse.



## March Birthdays

3/4	Adrienne R
3/14	Henry H
3/17	Deanna North
3/18	Toni Zanin
3/18	Eunice H
3/19	Mary Jo Muir
3/26	Resa Director



