

# Prince William Times

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Covering Prince William County and surrounding communities, including Gainesville, Haymarket, Dumfries, Occoquan, Quantico and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.



## County added to spotted lanternfly quarantine zone

Local residents, businesses must take steps to keep the invasive insect from spreading, officials say

By Cher Muzyk  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Last fall, after seeing nearly 80 houses and submitting 11 offers, first time homebuyers Megan Lamberson and her husband were elated when their offer was accepted on their dream home -- a house "in the heart of Nokesville" on 13.5 acres with a wooded perimeter and lots of fruit trees and bushes. They had no idea that the spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect, had arrived in Prince William County just a few months before they did -- and only a few miles away.

The spotted lanternfly, an invasive insect originally from China, had already gone dormant as temperatures cooled in the fall, when the couple moved into their new home. It wasn't until this past spring when they heard about the damage the bugs can wreak on trees and landscaping. After doing some research, Lamberson said she learned spotted lanternflies prefer to feed on trees of heaven, a non-native, invasive tree that is plentiful in Northern Virginia.

"I started walking around one day and I got pretty overwhelmed because I saw that we have somewhere between 50 and 60 trees of heaven on our property. They are mature trees," Lamberson said.



An adult spotted lanternfly found last week on a tree of heaven in Lamberson's yard in Nokesville.

Removing trees of heaven is complicated because when under duress, they can produce new trees, often far from the parent tree, through an underground root structure. "You can't just cut them down. These trees just keep coming back," Lamberson said.

The couple is using the "hack and squirt" method, which involves chopping around the trunks of the trees with an axe and then spraying a potent herbicide into the fresh cuts. The exposed wood absorbs the herbicide and carries it to the root system.

"We wanted to be proactive," she said, "I didn't want spotted lanternflies. We have fruit trees on the property."

Last week, Lamberson's husband was outside marking trees of heaven with spray paint when he came inside and told her: "You're not going to be happy." For the first time, he had found a spotted lanternfly on their property and promptly killed it.

See LANTERNFLY, page 4



COURTESY

Megan Lamberson looks up at some of the 50 to 60 trees of heaven she has on her Nokesville property. She and her husband are ridding their yard of the invasive trees because they are preferred by the spotted lanternfly. Lamberson says the process will take years.

## Planning commission reviews rural data center plan

Prince William County planning commissioners, from left, Qwendolyn Brown (Neabsco), Richard Berry (Gainesville) and Tom Gordy (Brentsville) discuss the county's draft plan for the Prince William Digital Gateway during a July 20 work session.

PHOTO BY JILL PALERMO



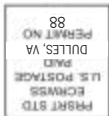
By Jill Palermo  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Preserving views at Manassas National Battlefield Park, maintaining wildlife corridors, protecting the watershed and minimizing noise were among the issues the Prince William County planning commissioners discussed during their first formal review of a plan to open more

than 2,100 acres of the protected rural crescent to new data centers.

The commission's two-hour work session on Wednesday, July 20, marked the first time any county board has publicly discussed the Prince William Digital Gateway comprehensive plan amendment.

See DATA CENTER, page 2



RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Police investigate vandalism at 2 Manassas cemeteries, page 6



National Night Out is Aug. 2. Upcoming Events, page 9



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# County added to spotted lanternfly quarantine zone

LANTERNFLY, from page 1

## Under quarantine

Earlier this month, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services added Prince William, Manassas and Manassas Park to the state's "spotted lanternfly quarantine" area, which is an effort to prevent the spread of the insect to un-infested areas of the commonwealth.

The quarantine area includes 22 Virginia counties and cities, mostly located along the state's northwest border. Prince William is the only county in Northern Virginia under quarantine and the furthest east. So far, the area does not include Fauquier, Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington or Alexandria.

The spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Prince William in March 2021 by county public works staff doing routine forest pest surveillance near the Manassas Regional Airport and Broad Run Virginia Railway Express commuter train station.

Despite coordinated efforts to manage the insect's spread, in just over a year, the spotted lanternfly has already established populations in Dumfries, Bristow, Brentsville, Gainesville, Manassas, Haymarket and Woodbridge, according to the Prince William County Public Works, Mosquito and Forest Pest Management Branch.

The spotted lanternfly likely arrived in North America hidden on imported goods from Asia, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It was first detected in the country in 2014, in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Virginia's first spotted lanternfly was discovered in Frederick County in January 2018.

The USDA calls the spotted lanternfly a "hitchhiking pest" because it can lay eggs on almost any surface, including vehicles, trailers and other equipment, which then can spread the pest long distances. To combat the spread, VDACS has requirements for both businesses and residents within the quarantine area.

Businesses that transport "regulated articles" outside the quarantine area must attend an online training, which costs \$6 per person, and apply for a VDACS permit. The application and online training are available at on the VDACS website.

Regulated articles include trees, plants, produce, yard waste, construction materials or equipment, stone, shipping containers and crates, lawn tractors and mowers, grills, outdoor furniture, any recreational vehicle or trailer that has been outside, and all vehicles.

"Businesses moving regulated items out of quarantine areas should begin the permitting process now as the quarantine expansion is now in effect," said Tree Dellinger, a diagnostician at the Virginia Tech department of entomology insect identification lab.

VDACS is reaching out to businesses in affected areas and ramping up a print and social media campaign to raise awareness about the new requirements, according to Michael Wallace, VDACS director of communications.

Both businesses and residents in the quarantine area must inspect any items that have been stored outside before moving them within the county or shipping them outside of the county.

They are also required to check all vehicles, trailers, boats, ATVs, RVs, or other means of transportation before driving away from areas known to have spotted lanternflies.

Residents are encouraged to kill spotted lanternflies on sight and "take precautions to not accidentally move spotted lanternflies out of the quarantine areas," Dellinger said.

## A sticky nuisance

For residents in infested areas, the spotted lanternfly "has the potential to be a serious nuisance pest to homeowners when it is present in high numbers," according to the VDACS website.



A tree of heaven thicket blankets the side of Vint Hill Road. Trees of heaven can be easily identified during the summer months by the reddish-orange-brown "samaras," or winged seeds, that cascade down their branches. Native to China, trees of heaven are an invasive species and a widespread nuisance across Virginia. The trees grow rapidly, thrive in poor soil, such as that found along roadways, reproduce very quickly and inhibit the growth of native plants. The trees are favored by the spotted lanternfly, which is also native to China.

STAFF PHOTO

The pest is most commonly found feeding on the invasive tree of heaven, which it prefers, but will also feed on grapes, peaches, apples, maples, walnuts, hops, cucumbers and basil, according to the VDACS website.

The spotted lanternfly uses a piercing-sucking mouthpart to feed, which allows it to extract sap while at the same time excreting a sugary substance – a process that can damage or kill trees. While the substance has a pleasant name, "honeydew," it can cause problems of its own, said Valerie Huelsman, an environmental educator with Prince William County's forest and pest management branch.

When large quantities of honeydew coat tree trunks and plants growing beneath trees, it can cause sooty mold or fungi to form, Huelsman explained. Besides being unpleasant, the sooty mold itself can harm plants. She said plants covered in the sooty mold could die unless it's washed off.

Huelsman also said that the honeydew can be very sticky and can coat anything sitting under areas where spotted lanternflies feed, including patio and deck furniture, kids play equipment, and vehicles. The honeydew's cloying content can also attract swarms of bees, which may be another concern for homeowners.

The sheer number of spotted lanternflies themselves can cause problems. "Some people with a strong dislike of insects may find spotted lanternfly infestations to be overwhelming," Dellinger said.

## What can be done?

Because the spotted lanternfly did not evolve in North America, it has no natural predators here to keep its population in check. The USDA is looking at options to introduce the insects' natural predators into our ecology to suppress their population, but that will take years if not decades.

Local predators, such as birds, spiders, and some insects, "are starting to go after them, but they're not going to be able to suppress at levels enough to control them," Huelsman said.

That's why the county is urging residents to take an active role to help manage the exponential population growth greater Prince William is currently experiencing. Residents are urged to destroy any spotted lanternflies they find at any stage of their life cycle.

Residents are urged to check their vehicles for spotted lanternflies and egg masses before leaving the county. Adult female spotted lanternflies deposit grayish-brown egg masses containing 30 to 50 eggs on trees and other smooth surfaces, including vehicles. The egg masses are easy to miss because they look like small mud smears and can survive all winter before hatching in spring.

Egg masses can be scraped into a baggie filled with hand sanitizer, double-bagged and thrown

away.

After hatching, the nymphs are black with white spots. They later develop red patches and finally develop into colorful, winged insects.

"A fly swatter is quite effective, especially for low populations. ... Swatting them into a bottle filled with hand sanitizer, rubbing alcohol or soapy water can work as well. For higher populations vacuuming them into soapy water can be very effective," Huelsman said.

Residents can also ensure that all trees on their properties are healthy because already-stressed or sick trees are especially vulnerable to spotted lanternfly damage. If residents have questions about their trees, they can contact a certified arborist or the county's Virginia Cooperative Extension environmental educators at 703-792-4037 or at BESTlawns@pwcgov.org.

## What about trees of heaven?

Removing trees of heaven is also encouraged in conjunction with spotted lanternfly management, according to the USDA and VDACS.

"We now know that the spotted lanternfly doesn't require the tree of heaven, but the tree of heaven is definitely a favored host tree, and the spotted lanternfly does very well on it. The tree of heaven is an invasive weedy tree species itself and its removal is still recommended whenever possible," Dellinger said.

VDACS recommends that homeowners remove 90% of the trees of heaven on their properties and use the remaining 10% as "trap trees," which should be treated with a systemic insecticide from April through September.

As Lamberson found, eradicating trees of heaven is not only a big job, it's tricky. Trees of heaven have "a tendency to resprout from cut stumps and root suckers if not treated with herbicide," Dellinger cautioned. "Many property owners have mowed or cut the trees only to have a thicket re-emerge without herbicide use."

She refers those, like Lamberson, who want to remove trees of heaven effectively to the Virginia Department of Forestry's website for advice.

"I've already reached out to a tree guy that's worked for me. He said it's going to be a week or more of work. I'm not looking forward to this at all. But at the same time, I don't want these trees on my property. I don't want the spotted lanternfly on my property ... so I don't really see any other options," Lamberson said.

Residents are urged to report any spotted lanternfly sightings to the county's Spotted Lanternfly Management Team, which can be found on the Prince William County website. For updated information, including maps of spotted lanternfly hotspots in the county, visit <https://pwcva.gov/slf>.

Reach Cher Muzyk at [cmuzyk@fauquier.com](mailto:cmuzyk@fauquier.com)

# Progress slow on region's tree-planting goals

580,000 new trees are needed in Northern Virginia by 2025, experts say

By Cher Muzyk  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Spring is a perfect time to plant trees and shrubs to beautify the landscape and improve the environment. In Northern Virginia, new native trees also keep sediment and harmful pollutants from flowing into the Chesapeake Bay.

Native trees are such a powerful tool to protect water quality in the Chesapeake Bay that in 2020 the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality included tree-planting goals in its "Phase III Watershed Implementation Plan" for the bay. The plan sets the goal of expanding the urban and community tree canopy in Virginia's portion of the bay's watershed by about 30,000 acres or 9 million new trees, said Jim McGlone, an urban forest conservationist with the Virginia Department of Forestry.

To track the goal, the VDOF broke the watershed into smaller work areas and assigned each a portion of the overall number of trees. The Potomac work area, which includes all of Northern Virginia, was assigned a goal of about 580,000 new trees by 2025. As of this year, however, only about 10,000 new trees have been recorded in the area, McGlone said.

That's according to the "Community Tree Map," a website the VDOF set up to track progress toward the DEQ goal. The agency encourages anyone who has planted trees on their properties or in their neighborhoods since 2020 to record the plantings and to continue to do so through 2025.

The VDOF Community Tree Map so far includes only one data point for Prince William County: A homeowner near Prince William Park-



PHOTO BY CHER MUZYK

A young native Eastern redbud tree purchased as a sapling from the nonprofit Clifton Institute in early 2021 and planted in the author's yard in Nokesville.

way and Davis Ford Road planted 55 trees on their property. The map shows four data points in Fauquier County, including a total of 13 trees planted. Warrenton has one data point with one tree recorded.

See **TREES**, page 4

## New trees dos and don'ts

The Virginia DEQ set a goal of boosting the tree canopy in the Chesapeake Bay watershed by 30,000 acres or 9 million trees by 2025. Residents are urged to plant new trees and report them on the Virginia Department of Forestry's Community Tree Map, located on the VDOF website at <https://arcg.is/WryDG>. (All trees planted since 2020 can be reported.)

### DO: Plant these native trees:

#### Shorter trees with spring flowers:

- Serviceberries
- Redbud
- Fringetree
- Flowering Dogwood
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- American Hornbeam
- PawPaw

#### Shade trees:

- Red Maple
- Common Hackberry
- Sweetgum
- Tulip Tree
- Black Sour Gum

#### Tall specimen trees:

- American Beech
- American Holly
- Eastern Red Cedar

#### Trees for wet places:

- Smooth Alder
- River Birch
- Black Willow

#### DON'T plant non-native, invasive trees, shrubs:

- Tree of Heaven
- Japanese Honeysuckle
- Privet
- Callery or Bradford Pear

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- Reduced sexual desire and performance

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# Supervisors OK new \$3.8 billion budget for 2023

**BUDGET**, from page 1

During a public comment time, many speakers urged the board to further lower tax rates amid historic 8% inflation while some praised the board for approving new initiatives, such as a planned mental health crisis receiving center and 6% raises for county staff. The new budget also includes a 9% increase in local funding for the county's school division.

## Budget highlights

The \$3.8 billion budget approved by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for fiscal year 2023, which begins July 1, includes:

- 6% raises for county staff
- 9% increase in local funding to county schools
- NEW mental health crisis receiving center
- 16 new police civilian positions
- Additional circuit court judge
- 104 additional staff positions
- Funding to reduce wait times for mental health and substance abuse treatment
- NEW drug court pilot program
- NEW funding for collective bargaining

The budget includes about \$2.7 million in new local spending to open the new 16-bed mental health facility for adults in early 2023. The center will offer residents immediate help for serious mental health crises as well as assistance with challenges such as addiction, depression and anxiety. County officials say they hope to find a building in eastern Prince William to repurpose for the new center, but an exact location has yet to be announced.

The new budget reflects a total increase in spending of about 12% over the 2022 spending plan. It will result in an average annual residential real estate tax bill increase

of \$172 based on an average county home value of \$470,000. Average property assessments are up about 12% over last year, county officials say.

## Republicans decry higher taxes

As they have in previous meetings, the board's three Republican supervisors – Yesli Vega (Coles), Jeanine Lawson (Brentsville) and Pete Candland (Gainesville) – cast votes against the budget and were critical of raising tax bills as residents struggle with rising inflation. Vega proposed reducing the real estate tax bill to 96 cents per \$100 in assessed value, while Lawson proposed a 99-cent tax rate that she said would result in “flat” tax bills.

Vega said she had received “close to 400 emails” from people objecting to the tax bill increase, while Lawson called the new budget “tone deaf,” and Candland said residents are “frustrated.”

“There’s just a lot of frustration from folks who are thinking this [tax bill increase] is the last thing they need right now,” Candland said.

Both motions to reduce the tax rate were defeated in 3-5 party-line votes, with the board's five Democrats voting in opposition. A separate vote on the new real estate tax rate of \$1.03 per \$100 in assessed value was then approved by the same margin, with all five Democrats voting in favor. The new rate represents a more than 8-cent reduction from the current \$1.115 real estate tax rate.

The Republican supervisors also voted against the 4% meals tax rate, saying it was the wrong time to place an additional burden on restaurants still recovering from the pandemic and struggling with higher food and beverage costs. Vega called the meals tax “regressive.”

“Passing this in a time of record-high inflation is insanity; it’s cold and it reeks of ... wanting more power over people’s money,” she said.

## County tax rates drop but bills rise

### Real Estate tax

Rate: \$1.03 per \$100 in assessed value  
▼ from \$1.115

Average residential tax bill: \$4,839  
▲ \$172

### Personal property (vehicle) tax

Rate: \$3.70 per \$100 in assessed value  
**UNCHANGED**

New: Vehicles assessed at 80% value to offset rise in used vehicle values

### Business tangible/computer peripheral (data center) tax

Rate: \$1.65 per \$100 in assessed value  
▲ from \$1.50

### Fire levy

Rate: 75 cents per \$100 in assessed value  
▼ from 8 cents

Average increase: \$18

NEW meals tax rate: 4%

The 4% meals tax was first included in the county's five-year spending plan last year. Supervisors voting in favor of the new tax offered no defense of it during the Tuesday, April 26 meeting. But in previous meetings, Board Chair Ann Wheeler, D-At Large, noted that the City of Manassas has long had a 4% meals tax, which has not seemingly impacted its thriving local restaurant scene. Several nearby localities also have meal taxes, including the towns of Dumfries and Haymarket as well as Arlington County, Stafford County, the City of Fairfax and the City of Alexandria.

In a February statement, Wheeler said she would support the meals tax to fund needed programs and services, including employee pay increases.

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# Progress slow on region's tree-planting goals

**TREES**, from page 3

Reaching the goal of planting 580,000 new trees is especially challenging in the Northern Virginia area because it is already highly developed. The VDOF is heavily relying on individual property owners to both plant and record their new trees to expand the urban tree canopy, McGlone said.

“Prince William is probably doing a pretty good job of planting trees, but they’re not reporting them. People need to do better about getting out and reporting,” he said.

The Prince William County Environmental Management Division has been planting native trees in the county for more than 20 years, said Julia Flanagan, the division's arborist. Flanagan said the county has reforested 67.5 acres with 35,674 native trees on county-owned properties and on common areas of homeowners' associations since 2013. Of those, the county has planted 13.2 acres with 7,765 native trees just since 2020. The county has its own separate reporting responsibilities, so it doesn't report its plantings on the VDOF Community Tree Map, Flanagan said.

## How do trees help the bay?

“The reason the 30,000-acre goal was put in there is because of water quality benefits that we get from tree planting,” McGlone said, explaining that runoff from streams causes sediment to flow into the Chesapeake

Bay and that sediment is the No. 1 source of pollution in the bay.

“Typically in a forest setting, you’re looking at about 10% runoff [into the Bay] on an annual basis, whereas [with] turf, you get more like 60% to 70% runoff,” McGlone said. “So, there is a significant increase in the amount of water that’s going into the stream from any rain event.” Streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are “not big enough to handle that, so what’s happening to our urban streams is they are getting deeper; they’re eroding down their beds; they are eroding their banks; and they’re sending tens of tons of sediment downstream through the Potomac River into the Chesapeake Bay,” he added. “That sediment is the number one pollutant for the bay right now, followed by nitrogen and then phosphorus.”

Sediment settles over grass beds at the bottom of the waterway, which then smothers baby crabs, fish, oysters and other sedentary organisms. When nutrients come into the bay, they fuel algae blooms. When algae die and decompose, the process uses up all the oxygen in the water, and “we wind up with dead zones,” McGlone said.

This unhealthy cycle has been happening “for decades” in the Chesapeake, he said.

Planting native trees and shrubs lessens runoff and helps water quality in the Chesapeake Bay and all the



PHOTO BY CHER MUZYK

An Eastern redbud seedling from the Prince William Conservation Alliance and potted two years ago and then planted in the author's yard in Nokesville.

streams that lead to it, including the Occoquan River.

McGlone said even a single new tree makes a difference, not just with water quality, but also as a climate-change mitigation strategy because trees pump water out of the ground and evaporate it, which cools the area.

Trees also absorb carbon from the atmosphere and store it both in their biomass and in the ground as their roots interact with the soil ecosystem. Native trees support birds and pollinators, which are disappearing from our environment “at an alarming rate,” he said.

While concerns about Chesapeake Bay water quality are driving the state regulations, simply planting the right kind of tree can have an exponential effect to our natural world, because it “is a strategy that addresses a lot of different environmental issues,” McGlone said.

Learn more about how to choose and plant the perfect tree for your home or community at <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/>. Then enter your newly planted trees at <https://arcg.is/WryDG>.

Reach Cher Muzyk at [cmuzyk@fauquier.com](mailto:cmuzyk@fauquier.com)

## Rare trumpeter swans spotted locally late into spring

By Cher Muzyk  
TIMES STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, April 30, birding expert Dave Larsen raced over to Regency Golf Course in Haymarket after receiving a text message from a neighbor alerting him that he'd seen swans while golfing that afternoon. When he arrived, Larsen, a birding expert, was surprised to find three huge, white trumpeter swans meandering around the seventh hole.

It was an unexpected find for Larsen because trumpeter swans are a rare sight in Prince William County, especially in the spring.

Over the last few months, the majestic birds have been seen consistently in the wetland area at Leopold's Preserve in Haymarket to the delight of many visitors. Birders Davis Chewning and Stephon Sterns saw 10 trumpeters at Leopold's on April 19, as noted on eBird, a tool anyone can use to log their bird observations.

Manassas resident Jim Ward photographed the trumpeters both in flight and in the water at Leopold's back on Feb. 27, the first time he visited the preserve. "The swans were really a nice surprise. I don't see many and that was by far my best opportunity to get decent photos."

Ward said he spends a lot of time at the boardwalk at Neabsco Regional Park and also Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge photographing birds. He said he will probably go back to Leopold's to see the trumpeters again if they stick around. "I wonder if there might be some chicks in the future," he said.

Larsen was surprised the trumpeters found their way to the Regency Golf Course because he thought that they'd already be on their migration journey north.

### Back from the brink

Trumpeter swans were plentiful in Virginia waters in the colonial days according to the Virginia Natural History Society. Described as both astute and wary, the graceful birds were documented wintering in the Occoquan Bay in huge flocks of 200 or 300 hundred in the early 1800s.

While trumpeter swans once widely bred across North America from central Alaska all the way to the East Coast, they were nearly exterminated in the lower 48 states prior to 1900 due to commercial trapping for their skin and feathers, subsistence hunting and habitat loss.

Since then, due to intense con-



PHOTOS BY JIM WARD

A pair of trumpeter swans, which rarely stay this far south during the spring, were spotted in a pond at Leopold's Preserve in Broad Run.

servation efforts, populations have recovered in many places. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports that trumpeter swan eggs have been sent to several Midwestern states to support restoration programs in areas where trumpeters have not been seen in 100 years.

Local conservation efforts are the legacy of the late William (Bill) Sladen a scientist and conservationist who worked for the last years of his life to establish a local population of trumpeter swans at Airlie Conference Center in Warrenton. After retiring from a teaching career at Johns Hopkins University, Sladen moved to Fauquier County in 1990 where he studied migratory patterns of trumpeter swans and attempted to restore the birds to their traditional East Coast wintering grounds until his death in 2017.

Larsen said all of Sladen's trumpeter swans were tagged with numbered neck collars. But since his death, capture and tagging of nestlings has not been done consistently and some may have wandered out to nearby ponds in western Prince William and perhaps some of them are now also breeding, Larsen said.

### How to spot and identify trumpeter swans

Even seasoned birders have trouble telling the difference between types of swans. In fact Leopold's initially misidentified their visiting trumpeter swans as the more common tundra swans in a Facebook post in February.

Hundreds of tundra swans winter along the Virginia shore of the Potomac. Tundra swans breed in the Canadian and Alaskan tundra then migrate mostly to the West Coast with a substantial subpopulation traveling to the mid-Atlantic including the Chesapeake Bay, Larsen said.

If you are trying to tell if a swan is the extraordinary trumpeter swan, first take note of its size. The huge, snow-white birds are the largest of the native waterfowl in North America. Males weigh in around 28 pounds and females at 22 pounds. They measure about 4 feet tall with spectacular 7-foot wingspans. Tundra swans are much smaller.

Look carefully and you can see the differences. Trumpeters have a straight, jet-black beaks off their foreheads with no yellow. Comparatively, tundra swans have a yellow marking at the base of their bills. The telltale sign is the unique sound of the trumpeter's call. "All About Birds" describes their call as

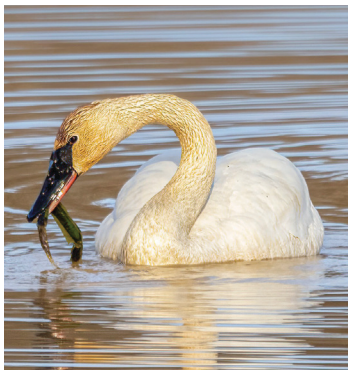
a "deep, trumpeting "oh-OH" call, with the second syllable emphasized." You can hear it here: [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Trumpeter\\_Swan/sounds](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Trumpeter_Swan/sounds).

Larsen thought that he'd seen the trumpeters for the last time this year at Leopold's on April 23. But the trumpeters continue to surprise him. Larsen said he is doubtful the trumpeters will stay in Prince William for the summer.

"Trumpeters often use beaver ponds for nesting, and I think Leopold's qualifies as a suitable location," he said, noting he has not observed any signs of the trumpeters nesting. "If there was any sign of nest building, I think we would have seen it," he said.

Learn more about Leopold's Preserve and plan a visit to get a glimpse of the majestic trumpeter swans while they are still around at <https://www.leopoldspreserve.com/>.

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A trumpeter swan finds a quick meal in the pond at Leopold's Preserve in Broad Run.



Two trumpeter swans fly over Leopold's Preserve in Broad Run.