

AZAM Rugs Boosts GP's Interior Design Identity

Randy Rieland

It's a long, long way from Istanbul to a street corner in Glover Park. But when it opened earlier this year in the space on Wisconsin Avenue formerly occupied by Sweetgreen, AZAM Rugs took another step in a business journey that began generations ago.

The company's legacy actually goes back to 1945 when the grandfather of its current owners began selling rugs in the Turkish city of Van. Then came a move to Istanbul where the first store opened in 1965. By 2000, AZAM was ready to expand its market and launched its first American store in San Francisco. A few years ago, the business came to Washington, and when the Sweetgreen space became available, AZAM made another move.

"We like this location," said Shafak Ozturk, one of the three brothers who own the business. "We think it's a good one." He said a big part of its appeal is the growing identity of Glover Park's business district as a center for interior design stores. That makes AZAM Rugs a good fit because it specializes in Turkish, Caucasian and Persian hand-woven rugs made from silk, cotton and wool. It also cleans, repairs and appraises carpets.

A growing interior design center

"They're a natural extension of what's already blossoming in Glover Park," said Kate Dean, executive director of Glover Park Main Street. "They're very nice people and they have a very solid business model."

AZAM joins a number of other design and interiors businesses on the Wisconsin Avenue strip, particularly in the 2200 block. The roster now includes Saka Home, Architessa, Ligne Roset, LXRY and Theodore's by Cantonia. Joining that group, probably early next year, is Sherwin-



Williams, which will reopen its paint store in the space formerly occupied by the Lalgigas restaurant.

"What we're hoping to do is make it a turnkey experience for people," said Dean. "You can come here and look for countertops. And you can also look for a sofa, and you can look for a carpet. "And if you need to repair something, you or your contractor can go to Ace Hardware to grab supplies," she added.

Another part of that focus has been an effort to attract businesses that were more likely to stay committed to the business district, Dean noted. "That being said, I think we're ready for some different kinds of businesses to come in. I would love to see a variety of retail. We really don't have much retail," she said. "Right now Georgetown is blossoming with retail,"

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GLOVER PARK WINTER CELEBRATION

Saturday, December 16
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Stoddert Elementary School
all are welcome for this free event!





The *Gazette* is available online at gpcadc.org.

Responsible letters to the editor will be published as space allows.

**What's new in Glover Park? Check us out on both Facebook and Twitter!
Visit www.gpcadc.org to keep up with community news!**

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Your Membership Supports Glover Park Day, Porchfest Holiday Party Join/renew [online](http://gpcadc.org) now!

The GPCA promotes the well-being and interests of the residents of Glover Park.

Your dues support community events, local advocacy,
the publication of the *Gazette*, improvements to the neighborhood
including welcome signs, benches and pocket park maintenance.



President's Report

We Hope to See You Soon!

Lisa McCluskey

It's that time of year—so many holidays and much to keep us busy. Here's hoping that whatever you celebrate at this time of year will bring you joy, love and laughter! Glover Park Holiday Party. Please plan to join us for the annual Glover Park Winter Holiday Party to be held on Saturday, December 16, at Stoddert Elementary School, 2–4 p.m. This event will be held inside this year and will feature many activities for all to enjoy. The event will also include crafts, games, face painting, a bake sale, a book exchange, guess the gelt, music, cookies and cocoa.

As we have for years, we will be taking donations of new toys for A Wider Circle and any books left over from the exchange will be donated to local schools. Check page 12 and stay tuned to the listserv for details and get



ready for some cozy merriment. Remember, you can volunteer to help out even if you are not a member of GPCA!

Cheers to 2024 Plans for 2024 neighborhood events are already underway, including a spring clean-up, PorchFest, Glover Park Day, the Best of Glover Park and more! So much to look forward to in the new year.

GPCA Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, 7 p.m.

Via Zoom

Agenda

President's Report
Police Report
Membership Report
Treasurer's Report
Jackson-Reed Girls Lacrosse vote for donation
Secretary's Report
Guy Mason Activities
New Business

For updates, check www.gpcadc.org and Glover Park listserv (<https://groups.io/g/GloverPark>)

Continued from page 1

Dean added. "Maybe as they do better and better maybe some of that activity will shift northward."

Addressing crime fears

She pointed out, however, that the recovery from the pandemic, particularly in the restaurant business, has been slowed by another challenge—a rising fear of crime in the city. "While we don't suffer a lot of the problems that other neighborhoods are

dealing with, restaurateurs are spooked. Small business owners are spooked," Dean said.

"If I'm being completely candid, I think it's going be hard for restaurant and business owners to be successful until the city gets this crime issue under control. It's undeniable and it has to be addressed."

Dean believes one reason Georgetown's restaurant and business community is doing well is because the neighborhood is now considered safer than nightlife locations near

downtown DC or at The Wharf.

One of her goals for next year is to find ways to attract more of the patrons of Georgetown's stores and restaurants to Glover Park. At the same time, she said, it's important to keep reminding locals to do their part. "I would say that to save our corridor, people who live in and around Glover Park—whether it's Mass Avenue Heights or Burleith or Glover Park proper—all need to support our businesses," Dean said. "Everyone needs to contribute."

Turkish Rug Motifs

Fertility

The fertility motif is composed of ram's horn and hands on hips. Hands on hips symbolizes a woman, and ram's horn symbolizes a man. It has various protective symbols.

Human Figure

The head ornament used by the bride in wedding ceremonies is a symbolic representation and shows her desire to marry.

Cross

It is used against evil eye to reduce the power of the evil glance by dividing it into four pieces.

Hands On Hips

Stylized female figure derived from Anatolian mother goddess figurines used as a symbol of motherhood and fertility.



GPCA Meeting Minutes, November 2023

Lisa McCluskey

The following is a brief update on our monthly meeting. GPCA currently does not have a secretary. A full recording of the meeting can be accessed via the link [here](#).

President Lisa McCluskey welcomed attendees, noting that the November *Glover Park Gazette* was published Monday, November 6, and is available online.

Police Report. MPD Lt. Johnson reported an increase in thefts last month. The report included 3 thefts from auto and 11 retail thefts, and, 1 automobile and 2 scooters were taken. A violent crime was reported at DeCarlo's at the Westchester apartment building. An altercation between 2 restaurant employees resulted in a stabbing. A stabbing also happened on a Metro bus around Wisconsin Avenue and 34th Street after an argument between two passengers riding the bus. The perpetrator was not apprehended.

Membership Report. Lisa McCluskey is preparing Thanksgiving and Winter messages to be sent to the neighborhood on behalf of GPCA to raise awareness and boost membership.

Treasurer's Report. Chris Finnegan presented the Treasurer's Report for Maggie Simpson. He reported that we have total assets of \$17,631.34.

Jackson-Reed Girls Lacrosse. Liz Ludgin, parent to a girls lacrosse student asked for a grant of \$2,000 for equipment and uniforms for their club. DCPS does not provide funding for this sport. A vote will be held at the January meeting. The team will also be at the December 16 Holiday Party to face paint and raise funds with a bake sale.

Volunteers Needed. Before closing the meeting, Lisa McCluskey put out a call for a volunteer to take up the work of the GPCA Secretary. Currently she is doing the monthly minutes herself along with her duties as president, planning events and designing the *Gazette*. Volunteer help is needed badly if members still wish to have complete transcribed meeting minutes..

Next Meeting. The next meeting will be January 9 at 7 p.m. [via Zoom](#). The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

ANC3B News

November Meeting Highlights

Melissa Lane

- **Police Report.** MPD Lt. Johnson reported an uptick in thefts. In the past 30 days, 3 thefts from auto and 11 retail thefts were reported. Additionally, 1 automobile and 2 scooters were taken. A violent crime was reported at DeCarlo's at the Westchester. An altercation between two restaurant employees resulted in a stabbing. A stabbing also happened on a Metro bus around Wisconsin Avenue and 34th Street after an argument arose between two passengers riding the bus. The perpetrator was not caught at the time.

- **3300 Whitehaven Development Project.** Eddie Mansius from the Grosvenor Group along with Lawrence Ferris from Goulston & Stores and Laurence Caudle from Hickok Cole reported on their renovation of the building at 3300 Whitehaven (the edge of Dumbarton Park across from Glover House). This is the second phase of the project, the first being to build a below-grade gymnasium for the British International School of Washington.

For phase 2, they plan to convert the unused office building into 276 residential units as well as add expansion space for the British School. Although the project is in Ward 2 and ANC 2E, it abuts ANC 3B in the middle of Whitehaven Street. The plan also includes a transportation review that is currently under development and will be submitted to DDOT for approval when complete. Finally, Mr. Mansius talked about the public benefits package that is being put together. It includes contributions to various groups in both ANC 3B and ANC 2E, such as local schools, the Mount Zion Union Band Society and Glover Park Main Street. ANC 3B deferred the vote on the public benefits package until next month to incorporate Stoddert Elementary, which would be the in-boundary school for the new residential building.

Lead Free DC. Sean Moore, Communications Manager for Lead Free

DC, described how residents can benefit from the DC program to replace old, unsafe lead water pipes. Lead Free DC seeks to remove all lead service lines from the city. ANC 3B is scheduled for lead service line replacement this fiscal year. Details on this plan may be found on the ANC 3B website at <https://anc3b.org/wp-content/uploads/ANC3B-110923-LeadFreeDC-Presentation.pdf>

- **Bike micromobility & congestion at Fulton and Wisconsin.** A resolution passed supporting the location of a Bike Micromobility Corral on the south side of Fulton Street immediately west of Wisconsin Avenue. DDOT has issued a Notification of Intent (NOI) and the deadline for comments is 11/28. A corollary issue is congestion on the corner of Fulton and Wisconsin. ANC 3B will ask DDOT to investigate removing three additional parking spaces to relieve the congestion.

- **More Capital Bike docks installed.** Four new Capital Bike docks have been installed in and around ANC 3B. The locations are 39th Street & Tunlaw Road NW (ANC 3B), Wisconsin Avenue & Upton Street NW (ANC 3A), New Mexico & Cathedral Ave NW (ANC 3B) and Massachusetts & Idaho Ave NW (ANC 3A).

- **Opposition to Washington Gas PROJECTPipes Phase 3.** A resolution was passed regarding Washington Gas's plans to replace all underground natural gas pipelines. ANC 3B opposed funding phase 3 of Washington Gas' PROJECTpipes and urges the Public Service Commission to require Washington Gas to revise its plan to focus on remediation of leaking infrastructure, rather than wholesale replacement of all gas pipelines, and to scale new investments to match the city's energy and climate goals.

Glover Park Village Walking Tour of Holy Rood

Beth Miles

On November 11, Veterans Day, Glover Park Village Board Member Beth Miles led us on a visit to Glover Park's oldest historic site, Holy Rood Cemetery, to mark the grave sites of soldiers and sailors who served in eight American wars.

Thanks to research by Carlton Fletcher, Glover Park's local historian and editor of gloverparkhistory.com, we all learned the stories of these often-forgotten men and women, and explored this beautiful hilltop site.

Pictured clockwise: Glover Park Village participants at Holy Rood; Gabby Maldonado learned how to make a gravestone rubbing (Ignatius Belt, 1824–1907, a free Black Navy veteran); and Nico Maldonado brushed leaves from a Revolutionary War veteran's plaque (Joseph Nevitt, 1752–1834, Maryland Minuteman).
Photos by Allen Hengst.



Passa la nave mia colma d'oblio

(Petrarch 189)

My ship, weighted with all I would forget,
sails treacherous waters this winter night,
a strait with dangerous rocks and swirling
whirlpools, piloted by one no friend to me,

each oar propelled by a foul foremost thought
that seems to scorn the tempest, its foreboding;
an undying wind, soaked with sighs of hope
and passion, rips the sail asunder.

Rainfall of tears and indignation's fog
dampen, slacken the already weary rope,
twisted strands of ignorance and error.

The two trusted guideposts of my life, sense
and skill, are swamped beneath the billows.
I despair of ever reaching shore.

(A translation of the Italian by Edna Small)



Puttering in the Garden “Goin’ a Fir Piece”

Roger Williams and Laura Ivey

As the holiday decorating season approaches, my wife gets excited about having a “Christmas tree” in the house again. She also noted, on our recent journey to Cape Breton Island, that there were a lot of Christmas trees all along the way. So, by her definition, any tall still-green tree with needles, is a Christmas tree.

Well, not good enough, not for this engineer. Names matter, definitions matter, say I. Is that thing in my house a sequoia? A juniper? “Where you from, fella, and who are your people,” I ask. They must be evergreens. Oh, wait: Larch or tamarack would look that way in July, but turn a flaming yellow in fall and drop all their needles. Not “evergreen” by any stretch of the phrase. Well then, they are conifers! Hmmm, not so fast. Not all evergreens are cone-bearing, the underpinning of that defining word. Well, damn! Cedar, fir, pine, juniper.... And don’t even get me started on the broadleaf evergreens like laurels, hollies, or magnolias.

Fess up, what are you?

Realistically, the trees know themselves and don’t worry about labels. They quite literally know each other, too. They trade information, “talk” if you will, as described by Peter Wohlleben in *The Hidden Life of Trees* and Suzanne Simard’s book *Finding The Mother Tree*. Both books spoke of the network of roots of various species directly connected by mycorrhizal fungi that allow the trees to communicate. They do their amazing thing, singing their chorales together, while we humans run around defining, subdividing, categorizing, naming, trying to understand. Sometimes I wonder if the real meaning of ‘worship’ comes when we stop trying to understand and simply accept, in all humility, this thing before us that holds such grandeur.

But I’m still human and, worse yet, an engineer, so I will categorize. And if I define, I need to do so in the same hierarchy throughout. Not fair to categorize one by use (Christmas tree), another by a reproductive choice (conifer), and a third by a seasonal tendency (evergreen). Carl Linnaeus, the father of such hierarchical naming, can relax for a moment, as we will try to do him proud.

Categorizing

I will skip defining “tree,” and nod in passing to a subcategory, the deciduous tree. These are the ones that grace us with such colors of fall and then drop their broad-form leaves, the ones we are all cleaning up just now. They stop the sugar- and chlorophyll-making leaf processes, withdrawing their life energy to their roots for the winter. They look to be dead. Oh, except the broadleaf evergreens I mentioned above and their relatives. Oh, my sense of order is quivering.

Another subcategory of the group we nominally call “evergreen,” the cone and needle-bearing conifers, have no broad leaves. They



are categorized by three general factors: how their needles attach to the branch, the shape of the needles, and how their cones sit on the branch. By example, the firs (*Abies* spp.) all have their cones standing up on the branch, as opposed to most other subspecies. Moreover, they grow short, flat needles that curl up from the branch. Firs generally make good trees for decorating. Some of them, such as balsam fir, have a very identifiable, “Christmas-y” smell.

Pines (*Pinus* spp.), on the other hand, tend to have long, thin needles, flexible branches, and cones that hang below the branch. These branches are not as good for hanging ornaments, so I would not qualify these as Christmas trees. Not good ones anyway.

Spruce (*Picea* spp.), though they generally look like firs, have four-sided needles and downward tilting cones. Hemlocks (*Tsuga* spp.) have flatter branchlets, and have flat needles of varying lengths. True cedars (*Cedrus* spp.), like firs, have up-growing cones. They are also very aromatic. And it goes on into the *Cupressaceae* family of junipers, arbovitae, and redwoods.

But to the original question: Are they all Christmas trees, as my wife says? In a more humble tone, I will forego the nitpicking Linnaean categorization and offer this: For millenia, the evergreen has been a sign of continuing life in a desolate winter world when all else has died. Whatever green bough you may bring into your home to celebrate the season, you likely do it with this remembrance. And as the celebration of Christmas carries many of these same feelings of the hope in the resurrection of life, we can graciously call any of these bits of winter greenery Christmas trees, and allow them to bring us the hope of a new life.

Therefore, as is often the case, my wife was right all along. So, to all a good night, and a happy new year.

Real Estate Watch

(Almost) The Same Old Story

Maggie Simpson

As of mid-November 30-year fixed mortgage rates have fallen from an average of 7.75% to 7.50%, bringing some relief to buyers in the housing market. The response has been pretty immediate with mortgage applications rising almost 5% within a week of the rate decline. Many believe that recent data showing reduced inflation rates and a slowing job market will encourage the Federal Reserve to back off their contractionary policies, hopefully allowing mortgage rates to fall even further.






Meantime, most other housing market indicators remain about the same: in the DC area the number of homes for sale is very low relative to demand, so prices continue to rise – although more slowly than in the past few years. Despite sales being down 20% compared to last year, buyers have to be ready to pounce if they find a house they love!

Glover Park Sales of Single-Family Houses

Address	Sold Price	Date
2118 Tunlaw Rd NW	\$953,000	11/10/23

October 2023 MARKET RECAP

Washington, DC

	470 EXISTING HOME SALES	-20.2% ↓ % CHANGE YOY
	\$675,000 MEDIAN SALE PRICE	3.9% ↑ % CHANGE YOY
	369 PENDED SALES	-11.5% ↓ % CHANGE YOY
	1,009 NEW LISTINGS	-11.5% ↓ % CHANGE YOY
	2,448 ACTIVE INVENTORY	-2.1% ↓ % CHANGE YOY

Source: BrightMLS, Compass Real

Glover Park Village

Free December Events

Erin Byrne

December

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 16, 10 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Guy Mason Recreation Center. [Register here](#).

Brain Health, Zoom Meeting

Saturday, December 30, 10–11:30 a.m.

Join us for Brain Health check-ins.

January

Artful Afternoons

Tuesday, January 16, 1–2 p.m.

Guy Mason Recreation Center

Coffee and Conversation

Friday, January 19, 1–2 p.m.

Point Chaud.

Brain Health: Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, January 30, 1:00–2:30 p.m.

Guy Mason Recreation Center



Guy Mason Recreation Center

December and January Virtual and In-Person Events

Marsha Goldberg

December

Guy Mason Virtual Reading Group

Wednesday, December 20, 11 a.m.—Noon

The book for December is *Horrorstor* by Grady Hendrix, a traditional haunted house story in a thoroughly contemporary setting. Something strange is happening in the Orsk furniture superstore in Cleveland, Ohio. To unravel the mystery, three employees volunteer to work the dusk through dawn shift. They patrol the empty showroom floor, investigate strange sights and sounds, and encounter horrors that defy the imagination. To join the group and receive the link to participate, please contact Wendell Kellar at Wendell.kellar@dc.gov. Copies of the book are available at the Georgetown Branch of the DC Public Library. Ask the librarian for the book for the Guy Mason Reading Group.

Lunch and a Movie

This event will not be held in December but will resume in January 2024. Happy Holidays!

January

Guy Mason Virtual Reading Group

January 5–7 p.m. In-person at Guy Mason

The book for the new year is *A Room with a View* by E.M. Forrester. The book follows Lucy Honeychurch as she fights against her society in search of both independence and love. While initially she believes these things are mutually exclusive, she realizes with the right person she can have both. To join the group and receive the link for the virtual meeting, please contact Wendell Kellar at Wendell.kellar@dc.gov. Copies of the book are available at the Georgetown Branch of the DC Public Library. Ask the librarian for the book for the Guy Mason Reading Group.



Lunch and a Movie

Friday, January 26, Noon-3 p.m. In person at Guy Mason

Start 2024 with a convivial get-together. The movie will be *Snow Falling on Cedars*, starring Ethan Hawke, Sam Shepard, and James Cromwell. The movie is based on the award-winning novel about a murder trial that transforms a tranquil village into a center of controversy. Lunch begins at Noon and the movie at 1 p.m. Closed caption will be available. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Marsha Goldberg at mslonegoldberg@gmail.com or call Guy Mason at 202-727-7527.



The Glover Park Archaeological Museum*

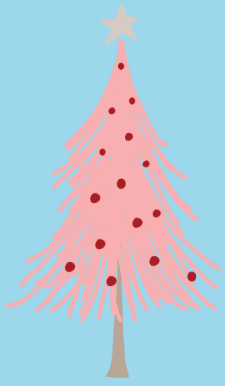
Carlton Fletcher

This Minié ball, standard ammunition for the army in the Civil War, was probably dropped by a Union soldier on duty at the [Signal Camp of Instruction](#), a training facility for the newly-founded Signal Corps, and a part of a network of signal stations intended to give Washington timely warning of any Confederate threat.

While it has always been clear that its northern end was the signal station atop Red Hill (where the Russian Embassy is today), this find, unearthed during backyard excavations on the west side of Tunlaw Road, suggests that the Signal Camp is likely to have extended to a point well south of what is now Benton Street.

*A [virtual collection](#) of marginally significant relics of the past.





GLOVER PARK WINTER CELEBRATION



Saturday, December 16
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Stoddert Elementary School

all are welcome for this free event!



- Meet Santa and get a treat
- New Toy donation (new unwrapped) collection for A Wider Circle and raffle prizes
- Guess the gelt
- Santa's mailbox drop-off
- Book exchange for all ages
- Hot cocoa and cookies/treats
- Crafts
- Face painting and bake sale
- Stoddert gear sale
- Community information tables and more



Sponsored by GPCA
in conjunction with
the Stoddert Elementary
Parent Teacher Organization.
Visit www.gpcadc.org or scan QR code



Glover Park Dining Guide!

Cozy Up in a Glover Park Eatery

Glover Park's mainstreet corridor offers a wide variety of shops and restaurants to enjoy. Forget the traffic, parking hassles or extra cost of a car service and enjoy a walk over to dine-in at one of our many local establishments. Ordering in or for pick-up on busy weeknights is also a benefit of living close by.

Looking for entertainment or a special date night? Check out individual websites listed below or call for more information about offerings, including music, trivia, sporting event coverage or try out a new drink.

Don't forget the gift cards! Many local businesses offer gift cards, printed or virtual, that are perfect for anyone on your gift list.



Aladdin House of Kabob & Gyros
aladdinhousecdc.com
 (202) 944-3933

Angelico La Pizzeria
angelicopizzeria.com
 202-333-8350

BreadSoda
breadsoda.com
 202-333-7445

Chipotle Mexican Grill
chipotle.com
 202-706-7508

Domino's
dominos.com
 202-342-0100

Dumplings and Beyond
places.singleplatform.com
 202-338-3815

Eerkin's
eerkins.com
 202-333-3600

Einstein Bros. Bagels
einsteinbros.com
 202-448-9473

Glover Park Grill
gloverparkgrill.com
 202-625-5400

In Bocca Al Lupo
inboccaallupodc.com/
 202-750-7939

Mario's Trattoria
www.mariosdc.com
 202-735-0033

Mogee Tee
mogeteeusa.com
 202-333-2929

Old Europe
old-europe.com
 202-333-7600

Point Chaud
pointchaudcafe.com
 202-758-2241

Rocklands Barbeque & Grilling Co.
rocklands.com
 202-333-2558

Xiquet
xiquetdl.com
 202-913-4671

Sprig and Sprout
sprigandsproutdc.com
 202-333-2569

Subway
order.subway.com
 202-337-1080

Sushi Keiko
sushikeiko.com
 202-333-3986

Wingo's
wingos.com
 202-878-6576

202-262-1261
202-944-5000
lenorerubino@wfp.com
lenorerubino.com



Lenore Rubino

WFP.COM



Season's Greetings from Lenore G. Rubino

Wishing you a joyous holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and the company of those you hold dear. May the New Year bring you renewed hope, prosperity, and countless moments of happiness in 2024!



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How is the Market?

Washington, DC is a city of more than one real estate market. And even in Glover Park, we see very different trends depending on the price point and whether the property is a house, condo or coop.

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Leaf Collection is here!



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