

# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) speaks at his first Town Hall meeting held Monday evening, Feb. 3.



## Democracy Looks Like This

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Predatory Student Lenders

NEWS, PAGE 2

## Rachel Carson Middle Student Achieves Top ACT Score

NEWS, PAGE 5

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 2-6-20

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT #322





**I see more  
than a bundle.**

**Kyle Knight Ins Agcy Inc**  
Kyle Knight, Agent  
11736 Bowman Green Drive  
Reston, VA 20190

ACROSS FROM RESTON TOWN CTR.  
WWW.KYLEKNIGHT.ORG  
703-435-2300

While other insurers just see your home and car as a bundle or a combo deal, I take the time to see what they mean to you and give them the protection they deserve.

**LET'S TALK TODAY.**



State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company  
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company  
Bloomington, IL

## NEWS

# Predatory Student Lenders

**Northern Virginia lawmakers hope to crack down on student-loan servicing companies.**

By MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**A**s a high school student, Katlyn Weiser dreamed of attending George Mason University. She wanted to have a career in public service, being in the room where it happens on Capitol Hill. But instead she found herself under a mountain of debt, struggling to keep up with meeting minimum payments and ultimately being forced to make a difficult decision about her future. She says she'll never forget the day when an agent from loan-servicing company Navient told her that she should probably drop out of school to pay off her student debt. "I cried," says Weiser. "I cried a lot because I had come so far. I had become the first person in my family to go to college, one of the first people in my high school to go to college, and it was sad to hear that because I had come so far."

Weiser did not listen. She didn't drop out, and she's now a senior at George Mason University. She says she has determined that she can't afford a career in public service, so she plans on being a lobbyist instead. She's one of the student borrowers state Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) wants to help with a bill she calls the Borrowers Bill of Rights. It would use the power of the State Corporation Commission to crack down on what she calls the egregious practices of student loan servicing companies. "We can regulate these student loan servicers to ensure we're protecting our borrowers from shady practices, and believe me there are shady practices," says Howell. "Every other type of debt is regulated in Virginia except student loans debt. This lack of regulation is egregious given one million borrowers are collectively carrying more than \$41 billion worth of student debt."

**DEMOCRATS HAVE WANTED**



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

**Katlyn Weiser speaks at a press conference in Richmond in favor of a bill designed to crack down on egregious practices of student loan servicing companies.**

to crack down on student-loan servicing companies for years, but the Republican-led House of Delegates has blocked the effort. Del. Marcus Simon (D-53) has introduced legislation to have the State Corporation Commission regulate student-loan servicing companies for years only to be blocked by the GOP majority over and over. Even when Howell was able to get similar legislation through the Senate, Simon found that the Republican-led House was not interested.

"It's interesting that a number of delegates who have been sympathetic but didn't think this was the

student loan servicers engage in deceptive and predatory practices, borrowers can face insurmountable barriers to financial security."

**THE BILL** requires student loan servicing companies get a license to operate in Virginia from the State Corporation Commission, which would crack down on egregious practices like misrepresenting the amount of money due, recklessly applying loan payments to outstanding balances and failing to report payment history to consumer credit bureaus. Violators would be hit with a \$2,500 fee.

"This bill is not about free college," said Seth Frotman, executive director of the Student Borrower Protection Center. "This bill is about making sure borrowers in the commonwealth who took on debt to chase the

American dream aren't ripped off in the process."

All of the egregious practices outlined in the bill are already illegal. But borrowers would have to hire a lawyer and file a federal lawsuit to take action, which is not a workable solution for people who are already under a mountain of debt.

Instead, this bill makes these actions a violation of state law and empowers the State Corporation Commission to go after bad actors. That way borrowers who feel they've been wronged could file a complaint with the Bureau of Financial Regulation.

"Why are Virginia borrowers having to resort to lawsuits for their consumer protections?" asked Del. Cia Price (D-95). "It is past time for student loan borrowers in Virginia — like me — to have common-sense protections."

**"This lack of regulation is egregious given one million borrowers are collectively carrying more than \$41 billion worth of student debt."**

— Sen. Janet Howell (D-32)

right solution voted for the bill in committee this year," said Simon. "So I think we're on a glider path here, although there are a few people who continue to believe that we shouldn't be helping out students for whatever reason."

This year, Democrats are in control of the General Assembly. That's opened the floodgates for a number of issues, and cracking down on student-loan servicing companies is one of them. Howell's bill cracking down on student loan servicing companies passed a Senate committee with a unanimous vote. And Simon has a similar bill that's already passed the House with an 84 to 15 vote.

"When student-loan servicers engage in deceptive and predatory practices, borrowers can face insurmountable barriers to financial security," says Anna Scholl, executive director of Progress Virginia. "When



**TELL US  
WHAT  
YOU  
THINK**

**SUBMIT YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR HERE**  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/contact/letter)

**THE CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online

**Special Edition:  
PET Connection**

**Publishes:  
Feb 26, 2020**  
**Ads close:  
Feb 20, 2020**



**The Pet Connection will publish on February 26 and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 20.**

**This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.**

**For Print & Digital Advertising Information:  
Please Call 703.778.9431**

**LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION**  
Newspapers & Online  
703-778-9431  
[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke Connection
- Centre View
- Charlottesville Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/City/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Sully Connection



# Democracy Looks Like This

## Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D) holds Town Hall meeting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Constituents in the Hunter Mill District of Fairfax County showed up, listened up and spoke up at a Town Hall meeting hosted by Fairfax County Supervisor, Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill). Held Monday evening, Feb. 3 at the Reston Community Center-Lake Anne, the date marked the thirty-fourth day of the supervisor's initial, four-year term on the Board.

Supervisor Alcorn had invited all in his district to a Town Hall meeting, meant as an alternative avenue for citizens to share their views with him before he and others on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors considered crucial decisions. "Town Hall meetings are a great way for the public to interact with me directly, not just one-on-one, but also to hear others' concerns, have a community discussion about issues and exercise people's rights," he said.

Ed Robichaud of Reston waited for the meeting to begin. Referencing immediate past Hunter Mill Supervisor, Cathy Hudgins (D), Robichaud said, "Cathy used to do a good job summarizing board actions. Alcorn, he's a very process-oriented guy."

With the room filling up quickly, Deborah Shprentz of Reston took two seats at the edge, one for herself and one for husband, Joel. Shprentz said, "If I asked a question, it would be, what are your goals for the reevaluation of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan for Reston?" Joel Shprentz's focus was the direction Supervisor Alcorn might take. "I'd ask, will you continue in the direction of Supervisor Cathy Hudgins was going or different?"

According to Mike McDermott of Reston, he was not there to ask questions. "I'm here to learn...in particular about transportation and development," he said. Like McDermott, Kathleen Maupin did not attend the Town Hall meeting to express her thoughts but to gather more information. "I'm here to listen to the overall meeting and the vision of development for the Hunter Mill District," she said.

**SUPERVISOR ALCORN** opened the Town Hall meeting, saying that this event would not be his only Town Hall meeting, but instead, there would also be a Budget Town Hall meeting and one on issues. His "per-



Answering a question about the need for affordable housing, Supervisor Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) says, "We need to grow in the transit areas."



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A show of hands indicates that nearly all attendees at the Hunter Mill District Supervisor Town Hall Meeting, hosted by Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill), live in Reston.



Ed Robichaud



Deborah and Joel Shprentz



Mike McDermott



Kathleen Maupin

sonal, number one goal," he said, was to work for civil discourse in Reston, saying he was confident, all could move forward as a community and "tackle some of these thorny issues."

According to Alcorn, the primary reason he ran as the elected official for the Hunter Mill district was to manage growth in Reston. His first board motion authorized an amendment to the five-year-old Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan for Reston and initiated a public participation process. Alcorn said he would put together a task force, run on an open process, where people could voice their concerns. "There will be lots of meetings, every other week, for about a year," he said.

Supervisor Alcorn's first priority concerned the need to reform Fairfax County's land policies. He sought to use policies to preserve existing housing and generate more affordable housing. He would start with updating policies for converting old office parks and commercial centers.

Focusing on Plan Review, Supervisor Alcorn said they needed to first look at what properties had been rezoned. "There are 52 of them," he said. The second step in developing a Comprehensive Plan for Zoning was that the important thing to know about

rezoning was, "most of the density around the Transit Station can not be undone," he said. However, most have density in the design, and that's where we can get them."

Supervisor Alcorn's second priority re-

lated to transportation, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs.

There were several sidewalk, trail and crosswalk projects in the pipeline, but those needed to be accelerated. Also, there was a need to look at better technology to improve pedestrian safety, particularly at crosswalks and places with a clear safety risk. "We have to stop designing all our transportation for cars. They must be safe for people and cyclists," he said.

One of Supervisor Alcorn's final goals dealt with climate change, solar panels and running County fleets not on gas and diesel but electric.

## Highlights of Constituents' Concerns and Alcorn's Answers

### The Penny for Affordable Housing fund

A: Fairfax County could potentially dedicate an extra penny to its affordable housing penny fund. "I'm on the record for increasing it to two cents."

### Residents not told of construction on easements adjoining their properties

A: "It's a challenge...I will be happy to work with Transportation (on this)."

**Price inflation for housing** - the average housing inflation rate is higher than the overall inflation rate, with the prices for housing higher now versus 30-40 years ago

A: Part of the problem is our economic success; demand is there because we have a lot of jobs in the county. Development of the Transit-Oriented Core will help the

"dearth of affordable housing."

### One week in the life of newly elected Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)

Well, my goodness. Let me look at my schedule. I met with several dozen citizen groups about land-use, climate change concerns and affordable housing. I also met with the Reston Association representatives, representatives from Reston Citizens Association, with several industry representatives seeking approval of various development applications, and members of the Reston Planning and Zoning Committee. I also met with Fairfax County Park Foundation representatives, representatives of several transportation groups, and attended related meetings with county staff and regional officials. And that's one week.



## Dazzling Pace of Change in Richmond

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**D**azzling is the only word I could think of to describe the amazing work that is going on in the Virginia General Assembly this legislative session. The annual meeting of the legislature is just approaching half-time of its annual session, but already significant policy changes are being debated and adopted. There is little new to the policies that are being adopted; many are in place in other states already. But in Richmond they seem revolutionary!

I have already written about the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the early days of the session. The movement to ratify the ERA began in the early 1970s but was not successful in Virginia until nearly 50 years later! Since two ratification deadlines have already passed, the fate of the amendment with Virginia being the needed 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify is uncertain. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring is among the leaders seeking a judicial decision to validate the amendment's ratification.



### COMMENTARY

Although the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified in 1920 and added to the Constitution, Virginia did not add its support to ratification until 1952!

While legislation must be passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor to become law, here is a run-down on what has been approved so far by at least one house. By the time the legislature adjourns in early March this legislation is expected to be approved by both houses and sent to the governor. Numerous bills have been passed to ban discrimination against persons because of their sex; bills to protect LGBTQ+ persons would not have made it out of committee last year. Bills to ban discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment and credit applications have passed as has a bill to ban conversion therapy.

Likewise, bills to protect public safety from the misuse of guns that would never have made it out of committee previously have passed in both houses of the Assembly. My bill to require universal background checks has passed as well as bills granting localities the right to ban guns in public spaces, increasing the penalties for leaving guns unsecured around children, and requiring people to report lost or stolen guns within 24 hours. A "red flag" law that allows authorities to remove guns from individuals who have shown themselves to be a danger to themselves and to others has passed.

This week action is expected on bills that will open up the state to more solar and wind power and that will establish standards for the increased use of renewables in generating electricity. Plastic bags may be eliminated or taxed to reduce plastic pollution. I am sponsoring the Governor's bill to advance the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay that is getting some push-back from the farming community that would be affected by regulations to clean up stream runoff. Numerous bills have already passed to make it easier to register to vote and to vote on election day, including no-excuse absentee voting.

There is more to come. Tune in next week or follow the sessions on live-streaming at <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php> for more dazzling action!

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Not a 'Siege'

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to Delegate Ken Plum's OpEd in the Jan. 22-28 issue of the Connection, titled "Siege of the Capital."

After reading this letter, all I can say is "Wow!" Delegate Plum certainly has very poor opinion of Virginia gun owners. Stating that a peaceful and lawful demonstration by a large number of Second Amendment supporters is a "Siege" is incredible. Clearly Delegate Plum knows nothing about the people he appears to fear. He should get out of his liberal bubble and learn about the people who feel strongly about having their constitutional rights oppressed. They are non-violent and are law abiding.

Delegate Plum should read Virginia's constitution. He states "A well regulated militia made up of state and local police will protect the Capitol building and its occupant legislators from those who would deny freedom to others through their misuse of firearms."

Article 1, Section 13 of Virginia's constitution states:

"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the

military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power."

Note that our constitution specifically states that the "militia" is made up of the body of the people, meaning you and me. It is not made up of police officers. It sounds to me like Delegate Plum really wants to establish a standing army to protect him and his ilk from the people.

Our constitution cautions that such a thing is "dangerous to liberty".

**Michael Kirchner**  
Clifton

#### Don't Abolish The Death Penalty

To the Editor:

It's become quite clear that the movement to abolish the death penalty has reached Virginia. Death penalty opponents have suggested replacing it with life without parole (LWOP). They advocate for it as a more humane alternative to execution. That it's "punishment enough." Except you shouldn't believe that death penalty opponents will keep LWOP.

Recent legislation in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Vermont is seeking to end LWOP, using the exact same arguments that have been used against the death penalty. "Few civilized countries have

LWOP, it's too harsh," et cetera. The movement to abolish the death penalty has become a moving of goalposts, as opponents (who have suggested LWOP) as an alternative, are using the very same arguments they used against the death penalty, to advocate for the removal of the very same alternative punishment that they suggested in the first place! Vox News and The Sentencing Project are now promoting the abolition of LWOP so you shouldn't think it's me fearmongering. The death penalty should stay in Virginia, not just because some crimes are just too heinous to be punished by life without parole, but because it also prevents the abolition of life without parole. If the death penalty is abolished on a Monday, the movement to abolish life without parole will begin the following day. And before you know it, murderers will be back on the streets.

**Daniel Garcia**  
McLean

#### Becoming a More Equal and Inclusive Community

To the Editor:

I am an American, but my origins lie in a country where you cannot exercise your rights as a human being, let alone as a

woman. Women are forced into marriage at a young age, girls need permission from their fathers or brothers to leave their homes, and embracing your sexuality is unfathomable — and illegal at times.

It is for this reason that I write to you.

As a local newspaper serving the people of Northern Virginia, I ask that you write an article on the Jan. 15 ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in Virginia. It is crucial that we shed light on this recent event in Virginia that, while long overdue, must be celebrated.

On Jan. 15, 2020, Virginia voted on a resolution to ratify the ERA, making it the 38th state to pass this resolution. For decades feminists have been fighting to add a simple yet monumental phrase to the U.S. Constitution: "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

Shedding light on this century-long issue will give our daughters, mothers, and sisters not only the recognition they deserve, but it will pave the way for other states and even nations to recognize and embrace equal rights as well. If we—as residents of the state of Virginia—are one step closer to becoming a more equal and inclusive community, then we must hold a responsibility to report on these views and enlighten others along the way.

**Rudan Balay**  
Springfield

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

@HerndonConnect

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by**  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to [connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe](http://connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe)

**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mercia Hobson**  
Community Reporter  
[mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Worker**  
Contributing Writer  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jean Card**  
Production Editor  
[jcard@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jcard@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunc@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Classified & Employment Advertising**  
703-778-9431

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)







PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kaycee Childress (center) with children at the INMED Opportunity Center.

## Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation Holds Inaugural Coat Drive

Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation recently held its inaugural Coats for Kids drive, collecting well over 300 winter coats, along with boxes of hats and gloves, to help keep children in Northern Virginia warm this winter.

"The Coats for Kids drive is near and dear to my heart. We live in one of the wealthiest areas in the nation and yet right here, countless children go without warm winter clothing," said Executive Director of the NWFCU Foundation, Kaycee Childress. "Now, thanks to the huge hearts of our supporters, we have

been able to provide winter gear for so many children to help them stay warm this winter season."

The NWFCU Foundation was thrilled to be able to provide coats, hats and gloves to children at the InMed Opportunity Center in Sterling, Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center, Lorton Station Elementary, Hilda Barg Homeless Prevention Center, Lorton Community Action Center, Reston Police Station, Occoquan Police Station and the Prince William County Police Department.

More information about the Foundation's charitable drives can be found on their website.

## Rachel Carson Middle Student Achieves Top ACT Score

Anika Gulati, eighth grader from Rachel Carson Middle School earned the highest possible ACT composite score of 36.

Fewer than half of 1 percent of students who take the ACT earn a top score. In the U.S. high school graduating class of 2019, only 4,879 out of nearly 1.8 million students who took the ACT earned a top composite score of 36.

Anika turned 13 very recently. She took the ACT in December out of curiosity. She wanted to see how the test is and how she fairs in each of the different sections of the test.

The ACT consists of tests in English, mathematics, reading and science, each scored on a scale of 1-36. A student's composite score is the average of the four test scores.

In a letter to Anika recognizing this exceptional achievement, ACT CEO Marten Roorda



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Anika Gulati

stated, "Your achievement on the ACT is significant and rare. Your exceptional scores will provide any college or university with ample evidence of your readiness for the academic rigors that lie ahead."

## Scrawl Books' Employee Recognized by Author James Patterson

### Receives holiday bookstore bonus.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

Emma Baum, a bookseller at Scrawl Books in Reston, received a holiday cash bonus from best-selling author James Patterson known for his support of independent bookstores and booksellers. Partnering with the national not-for-profit trade organization, American Booksellers Association to distribute the funds for his 2019 Holiday Bookstore Bonus Program, Patterson granted bonuses of \$500 to 500 individual booksellers totaling \$250,000. Baum received her bonus in recognition of outstanding work after being nominated by Molly McMahon, Scrawl Books manager. The grant application asked one question: Why



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Emma Baum, bookseller at Scrawl Books in Reston Town Center, is the recipient of best-selling author James Patterson's 2019 Holiday Bookstore Bonus Program. Patterson pledged a personal contribution of \$250,000 to independent bookstore employees, granted in amounts of \$500 to 500 individual booksellers.**

does this bookseller deserve a holiday bonus?

"Emma is the person who has her hand on every moving part of operating the bookstore. Even if it's not in her purview, she jumps right in," said Mahon. "I nominated Emma for many good reasons but primarily because of her attention to detail and her willingness to spend any amount of time and effort to help customers find the right book. She makes a difference," said Mahon.

According to Patterson, his writing career, "is characterized by a single mission: to prove that there is no such thing as a person who doesn't like to read, only people who haven't found the right book."

"Patterson has demonstrated again and again just how strong his support is for the independent booksellers who introduce readers of all ages to the authors and titles that are most likely to spark and deepen their joy of reading," said American Booksellers Association CEO Oren Teicher. "For the past several years, indie bookstores in

the United States have benefitted from the largesse of one individual who has quite literally put his money where his mouth is... Since 2014, James Patterson has contributed \$2.35 million to indie bookstores and indie booksellers," he said.

Baum, who is a 2009 South Lakes High School Reston alumna, said that she did not know about the nomination until she received an email announcing she was a winner. "I was really excited to tell Molly and pleased for Scrawl Books. I love this little bookstore, and I want people to come to find us. We're right across from Balducci's," Baum said.

According to American Booksellers Association: "Independent bookstores act as community anchors; they serve a unique role in promoting the open exchange of ideas, enriching the cultural life of communities, and creating economically vibrant neighborhoods." Scrawl Books is located at 11911 Freedom Dr., Reston, website <https://www.scrawlbooks.com>.

## Hunters Woods at Trails Edge Event Highlights New Year's Eve Traditions

Hunters Woods at Trails Edge senior living community at 2222 Colts Neck Road in Reston held its New Year's Eve Around the World Open House from 3 to 7 p.m. on Jan. 30. The event was open to the public.

The community featured various spots decorated in a theme representative of different continents throughout the world. Cissy Nickel, Executive Director

of Independent Living at Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, said there was authentic food and beverages at each spot. A docent, or guide, from each of the various regions spotlighted spoke about the cultural New Year's traditions and celebrations unique to that region as well as general cultural differences. There was also entertainment specific to each region.

Hunter's Woods at Trails Edge opened in

May 2019, providing four levels of care in the 300,000 square feet community. The state-of-the-art retirement community is nestled in a tranquil wooded setting near the Turquoise Nature Trail, Reston Town Center, and Reston Community Center.

For more information, contact Cissy Nickel, Executive Director of Independent Living Operations, Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, at 703.429.1130 or [cnickel@integracare.com](mailto:cnickel@integracare.com).



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**New Year's Eve Around the World Open House was held on Jan. 30.**



**Like**

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK, PLEASE**

[www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

Announcements

**Employment**

**Forget Daily Commuting**

Print and digital media sales consultant for area's most popular and trusted local news source

Manage your own hours from home  
Enjoy flexible schedule plus no daily commute  
Help local businesses grow  
Unique opportunity to be a voice in your community  
Competitive compensation

Call Jerry Vernon  
**703-549-0004**  
Connection Newspapers & Digital Media  
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

Announcements

**OUTER BANKS, NC - VACATION RENTALS**

Over 500 vacation homes from S. Nags Head to Corolla's 4x4!

**Brindley Beach**  
VACATIONS & SALES

877-642-3224  
[www.brindleybeach.com](http://www.brindleybeach.com)

Announcements

Announcements

**Lifetime METAL ROOFING**  
by VA CAROLINA BUILDINGS, INC.

40 YEAR WARRANTY ON THE FINISH - ENERGY EFFICIENT  
SUPERIOR DURABILITY - SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNT  
**FACTORY DIRECT - WE FINANCE - CALL NOW!**

[WWW.METALROOFOVER.COM](http://WWW.METALROOFOVER.COM) **1-800-893-1242**

**You can read any of this week's 15 papers digital editions here:**

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs)

## SPORTS

# South Lakes Boys, Girls Win District Championship

**W**ith sweeping performances in the 300 meters, pole vault, shot put and a brother-sister winning combo in the 500 meters, the South Lakes High School indoor track teams won the Liberty District Championship Feb. 1, 2020.

It's the ninth straight championship for the girls team and an even dozen consecutive for the boys squad. The two-day meet took place at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

The Seahawks took the top three finishes in both the girls and boys 300 meters. Senior Hannah Waller, who also won the 55 meters (7.10) and triple jump (37-10.50), led the girls 300 domination in winning the race in a meet record 40.04. Sophomore Jillian Howard finished second in 40.67, followed by junior Juvannadean Mullings (40.80, 3rd) and senior Mary Gregory (41.08, 4th). While Waller broke the district record set by SLHS alum Lachelle Wallace in 2009, Howard and Mullings times were also better than the previous record of 40.99.

On the boys side, sophomore Joshua Gregory led the sweep of the boys 300 meters with a winning time of 35.93. Sophomore Tyler Benett was second (37.23) and senior Jackson Cooley finished third (37.46). Cooley also won the long jump (22-00.00), triple jump (42-05.50) and finished second in the 55 meters (6.55). Benett was second in the triple jump (42-01.50) and third in the long jump (20-09.25).

In the 500 meters, it was all about the Gregorays. Mary, who was fifth in the pole vault (7-00.00), started things off by winning the girls division in 1:17.15. Mullings ran 1:18.74 for third and senior Emily Lannen was fourth (1:20.14). To keep it a family affair, little brother Joshua ran a 1:07.90 to win the boys 500. Senior teammate David Ramirez finished fourth (1:10.3).

SLHS' events sweep began on Day 1 with the boys pole vault. Junior Tommy Allison cleared 12-00.00 to win the event while senior Gabe Simmons finished second (10-00.00) and sophomore Matthew Ryan was third (9-06.00). The field event sweep continue on Day 2 when senior Caleb Miller successfully defended his district shot put title (49-02.50) and was followed by sophomores Jeremy Semelfort (39-04.50, 2nd) and Adam Hvitfeldt-Matthews (38-03.25, 3rd). Senior Sarah Jane Brown also repeated as Liberty District shot put champion (33-01.15). Junior Molly Shapiro finished second (27-11.50) and also fourth in the pole vault (7-06.00).

Senior Mira Cuthill was the sole Seahawk in the girls high jump but she was all the team needed. She won the event with a personal best jump of 5-04.00. Her previous PR: 5-00.00.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH STIDMAN

**From left: South Lakes Joshua Gregory, Tyler Benett, Jackson Cooley In 300 Meters at Liberty District Championship Feb. 1, 2020.**



**From left — South Lakes Mary Gregory, Jillian Howard, Hannah Waller, Juvannadean Mullings In 300 Meters at Liberty District Championship Feb/ 1, 2020.**



**South Lakes High Jumper Senior Mira Cuthill at Liberty District Championship Feb. 1, 2020.**

The Seahawks started the meet winning the first running event of the championships. Lannen, senior Caitlyn Morris, sophomore Annika Yu and freshman Annalise Williams won the girls 4x800 meter relay in 9:48.92. Morris (5:20.80, 2nd) and Williams (5:22.89, 4th) also scored in the 1,600 meters as did Lannen (3:07.47, 3rd) and Yu (3:11.70, 4th) in the 1,000 meters.

SLHS placed in either the girls, boys and/or both divisions in every event.



# BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 6

**Coffee & Contracting: GovCon Networking.**  
8-9:30 a.m. At Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 150, Reston. Cost is \$10 for members/ \$20 for future members/guests. Join in Coffee and Contracting, an informal networking breakfast with a short educational program for government contractors.

## NOW THRU FEB. 18

### Herndon Accepting Arts Grants Proposals.

The Town of Herndon is accepting grant proposals up to \$4,500 through the Virginia Commission for the Arts (VCA) Creative Communities Partnership Grant for projects to be implemented in FY 2020. For information about this program and other grant opportunities, review the 2020 Guidelines for Funding which are available at [http://www.arts.virginia.gov/grants\\_guidelines.html](http://www.arts.virginia.gov/grants_guidelines.html). Nonprofit arts organizations incorporated in the Town of Herndon must meet general policy guidelines as published by the VCA. The Commission's Guidelines for Funding and other resources are available on the website at [www.arts.virginia.gov](http://www.arts.virginia.gov). Applicants should provide full documentation of projected budget, program planning, and a detailed description of the implementation of the project. Organizations who intend to apply for grant funding must submit their proposals by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18 to the Performing Arts Supervisor at the Town of Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation. Proposals may be mailed to Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, 777 Lynn Street, Herndon, VA 20170, hand delivered to the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave, Herndon, VA, 20170, or sent electronically to [parksandrec@herndon-va.gov](mailto:parksandrec@herndon-va.gov). Applicants are encouraged to confirm receipt by the department prior to the deadline. To learn more about the Town of Herndon Parks and Recreation Department, visit [Herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://Herndon-va.gov/recreation) or call 703-787-7300.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 18

**DMV2GO at the Library.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at [dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv\\_2go](http://dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**Parent Support Partners**, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax) or [www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html](http://www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html).

## ONGOING

**STEM Professionals Needed.** Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, [stemvolunteers.org](http://stemvolunteers.org), during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or [donaldrea@aol.com](mailto:donaldrea@aol.com).

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children, including those at 11 Title 1 elementary schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need through Weekend Food for Kids, tutoring programs and providing new clothing and layettes. To learn more, email: [info@alnv.org](mailto:info@alnv.org), or visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org)

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM  
CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>A&amp;S CONSTRUCTION</b> SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. <b>703-863-7465</b>		Good is not good, where better is expected. <b>-Thomas Fuller</b>	
<b>ELECTRICAL</b> <b>K&amp;D ELECTRIC</b> <b>COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE</b> Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... <b>Licensed/Bonded/Insured</b> Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 <a href="mailto:lektrkman28@gmail.com">lektrkman28@gmail.com</a>		<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>Quality Tree Service &amp; Landscaping</b> Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. <b>Winter Cleanup...</b> Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience - Free estimates <b>703-868-5358</b> <b>24 Hour Emergency Tree Service</b>	
<b>GUTTER</b> <b>GUTTER</b> <b>GUTTER CLEANING</b> Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards <b>PINNACLE SERVICES</b> Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email: <a href="mailto:jamil@lawnsandgutters.com">jamil@lawnsandgutters.com</a> web: <a href="http://lawnsandgutters.com">lawnsandgutters.com</a> Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		<b>IMPROVEMENTS</b> <b>IMPROVEMENTS</b> <b>TILE / MARBLE</b> <b>TILE / MARBLE</b> <b>BATHROOM REMODELING</b> by Brennan Bath and Tile Partial or Full. Kit. Floors, Backsplashes. Specializing in Ceramic, Porcelain, Glass Tiles and Natural Stones. Also repair work. 35 yrs exp. <b>www.brennan-tile.com</b> <b>703-250-2872</b> Licensed • Bonded • Insured	
<b>A&amp;S Landscaping</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Concrete work</li> <li>• Retaining Walls • Patios</li> <li>• Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion &amp; Grading Solutions</li> <li>• French Drains • Sump Pumps</li> <li>• Driveway Asphalt Sealing</li> </ul> <b>703-863-7465</b> LICENSED <b>Serving All of N. Virginia</b>			
<b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>LANDSCAPING</b> <b>Patios &amp; Drainage</b> Your neighborhood company since 1987 <b>703-772-0500</b>			
<b>J.E.S. Services</b> Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting &amp; Landscaping Design</li> <li>• Drainage &amp; Water Problems</li> <li>• Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New</li> <li>• Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid</li> <li>• Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose</li> <li>• Retaining walls of all types</li> </ul> All work Guaranteed			
<b>ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:</b> expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with <b>THE CONNECTION DIGITAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Email Marketing</li> <li>► Social Media</li> <li>► Sponsored Content</li> </ul> FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT <b>CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING</b>			
<b>Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to any or all of our 15 papers</b> <b>www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe</b>			

## Off Topic, Way Off



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

From cancer to toilet paper. Is that 'off' enough? My reason for writing this column might be because I need a diversion (see last week's column), and because, as is so happened recently, I needed to replenish our toilet paper supply. (It had nothing to do with a winter advisory in the forecast.) As the consumer in the house, I am keen and motivated to spend our money wisely. I look for sales, I use paper coupons, I use digital coupons and of course, I peruse the advertising circulars, in print and online (if necessary) regularly. In addition, I have a number of plastic bonus cards hanging on my keychain. In short, I am prepared and ready for any retail or wholesale opportunity that might present itself.

With respect to toilet paper, I believe us regular users have been victimized by the toilet paper manufacturers. I refer specifically to the increase in the size of the actual roll itself; from single to double to triple to jumbo to mega and now super mega. Since the manufacturers can't exactly increase demand, they've devised a strategy to increase supply - in our homes. And though using myself as an example is hardly empirical evidence, I will nonetheless continue to do so in an effort to justify my accusation.

If you're like me, you probably like to have an ample supply of toilet paper in the house, just in case (it happened once in college; not good). And to that end, the toilet paper manufacturers have offered up multipacks equivalent to as high as 96 rolls, if I'm not mistaken, to address this potential shortage. However, my beef is not with the number of rolls in these multipacks, my beef, as I've said, is with the size of the rolls. In these cases, size does matter.

For years, we've been buying 4-, 6-, 9-, 12-, 24-, 36- and even 48-roll multipacks, some single and some double to stock the bathroom linen closets, so we're used to having a specific number of rolls on hand/in inventory. Now the rolls are double or even triple the size we had grown accustomed to having as back-ups. But we're still, in spite of the gargantuan size of the newer mega/super mega rolls, wanting to have the same number of rolls in the closet as we've always had (I do, anyway). Sort of a comfort level, you might say. The problem is that having the same number of super mega rolls in inventory as previously one had as single or double rolls gives one way more toilet paper in the house than you ever had. In effect, we have over-purchased. The toilet paper manufacturers have used our predispositions against us in order to take a greater share of our household budget previously allocated for toilet paper.

I don't need six super mega rolls in our bathroom. But I do want to see at least six rolls in reserve (aid and comfort you might say). If the six rolls in reserve were single or doubles, their size would be irrelevant. The number of rolls was more important - in my head. And now, because of the toilet paper manufacturer's insistence that size matters, I am forced to buy these spare-tire, donut-sized rolls that I can't possibly use no matter what "snowmageddon" might hit us. But I can't stock my shelves with reasonably-sized rolls because their unit cost is prohibitive compared to the big roll multipacks. As the consumer I am, I am loathe to overpay for such household necessities. So I buy in bulk, stuff my shelves with ply and go about my business. I just wish I had more than a hand in their decision-making.

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



# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/).  
The deadline is noon on Friday.  
Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**AARP Tax-Aide Program.** Feb. 1 to April 14. At RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Tuesdays: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.; Thursdays: 4:30 p.m./– 8:30 p.m.; and Saturdays: 9 a.m./– 3 p.m. Free. For taxpayers with low and moderate incomes with special attention to those 60 and older. AARP's Tax-Aide program was created nearly 40 years ago to assist older adults as well as persons with low and middle incomes in successfully navigating the tax code. All tax preparation is free and confidential. For more information, contact the Lifelong Learning Program Director, Casmera Lebron at 703-390-6157.

**RCC Collecting Dresses and Accessories.** Feb. 1-29. Reston Community Center is accepting donations of gently used dresses and accessories for its 18th annual Diva Central Dress Drive. From Feb. 1 – 29, RCC will be collecting the items at its Hunters Woods and Lake Anne locations. In addition to dresses, RCC needs donations of shoes, jewelry, handbags and shawls. Donations are tax-deductible and may be dropped off Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Sundays. Donations will benefit middle and high school students in Reston and surrounding areas, who can outfit themselves for prom and spring dances for free. This year's dress and accessories giveaway event is planned for Saturday, March 28, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza in Reston. All local middle and high school students are invited to attend and “shop” for dresses, shoes and other accessories for free. There will also be door prizes and refreshments. Registration is not required.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 5

**DIY Club — Jewelry Making.** 6:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Learn the basics of jewelry making and create an original piece in this hands-on workshop. Adults, Teens.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 6

**Millennials Book Club.** 7 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Title is “The Satanic Verses”, by Salman Rushdie. Check out a library copy or pick up a copy of your own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 7

**Baby & Me Yoga.** 10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Bring your baby for a nurturing yoga workshop designed for the two of you. No experience needed. Bring a mat or blanket. Co-sponsored FRRL. Age 6 weeks—16 months with adult.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 8

**Sing! Books with Miss Emily.** 10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join Miss Emily for singing storytime with illustrated songs. Co-sponsored by the FRRL. Age 2-5 with adult.

**Handmade Valentine Workshop.** 1-2:30 p.m. At GRACE, 12001 Market Street, #103, Reston. Create one-of-a-kind Valentines in a workshop led by GRACE staff. All ages. Registration at event sponsor's website, [restoncommunitycenter.com](http://restoncommunitycenter.com). Call 703-471-9242 or visit [www.restonarts.org](http://www.restonarts.org).

**Aesop's Fables.** 2 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Aesop was an African storyteller whose famous fables are still celebrated today. Join us for a selection of fables performed by Bright Star Children's Theatre. Cosponsored by the FRRL. All Ages.

**Old Fashioned Taffy Pull.** 3-4:15 p.m. At Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Make candy and sample refreshments from the olden days. Historic farm interpreters will lead a program that includes exhibits of an early 20th-century farmhouse, a brief history of candy-making, and an outdoor, wood-burning stove demonstration, weather permitting. This event is designed for participants ages 10 to adult. The cost is \$10 per person. The program is not recommended for those with allergies to nuts or dairy. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.



## Retro Game Night

**Retro Game Night will be held Feb. 28 at the Reston Museum.**

### FRIDAY/FEB. 28

**Retro Game Night.** 6-9 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Grab your friends and play board games in the museum after hours. Choose from over a dozen games provided by Staring Player Pop-up. Feel free to bring your own games and grab some of the provided snacks. Space is limited so come early to grab a spot! Everyone who attends will receive a poster of “The Game of Reston.” Visit the website: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/>



## Rocknoceros

**Rocknoceros will appear at the Herndon Community Center on Monday, Feb. 17.**

### MONDAY/FEB. 17

**Rocknoceros.** 10:30-11:15 a.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Coach Cotton, Williebob, and Boogie Woogie Bennie perform wildly popular award-winning music for the whole family. Rocknoceros has dominated the DC children's music scene for many years. Visit [herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation), or call 703-787-7300.

**Geocaching Workshop.** 3-5 p.m. At Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Set off on a search for hidden treasure at Lake Fairfax Park after learning how to put your Global Positioning System (GPS) unit to work. Students ages 8 to adult will learn how to enter latitude and longitude coordinates into a GPS. Treasure hunters will then follow the coordinates to find a hidden object, container or unique geological feature in the park. Cost is \$22 per person. Please bring your own GPS; a limited number will be available to borrow from the instructor at class. Call 703-471-5414 or visit

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax).  
**Casino Night.** At Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon. A fundraiser for the 2020 All-Night Grad Party. Buy your \$72 tickets today! You can also purchase your casino night/silent auction ticket directly at: [www.herndonang.org](http://www.herndonang.org)

### SUNDAY/FEB. 9

**Gustafer Yellowgold.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Cost is \$10 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston

With pancake lunch. Since his creation by Morgan Taylor, Gustafer Yellowgold has become an international phenomenon. Take a ride with Yellowgold, who is living an explorer's life in a slightly psychedelic version of the Minnesota woods. Tickets include a “build your own” pancake lunch from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Carolina Blue.** 7 p.m. At Bluegrass Barn at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Cost is \$18/advance; \$20/door. New this season is the Half Season Pass — four shows and reserved seats for \$68. Food and drinks, including beer and wine, are available for purchase at the performances. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/) or by phone at 703-222-4664 or 703-437-9101.

### MONDAY/FEB. 10

**Baby Lapsit.** 10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. A cozy time to enjoy nursery rhymes and songs while building early literacy skills for your child. For age birth to 11 months with adult.

**RCC's 40th Anniversary.** 6:30 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Restonians are invited to mark Reston Community Center's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and plan for its future. The agenda of this special annual joint Community Relations and Program/Policy Committees meeting includes a screening of a short film about RCC's first 40 years; a presentation on the results of the 2019 RCC Community Survey; facilitated discussion on four important RCC strategic planning pillars (Facilities, Community Building, Programs and Communications); and a summary of those discussions. To encourage community attendance, RCC will be serving dinner, providing translation support (Chinese, Arabic, Spanish and Russian) and offering childcare support for busy families with children ages 6 to 12. RSVP at [RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov). To register, visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com).

### MONDAYS/FEB. 10, 24

**Preschool Storytime — Love Stories.** 2 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. This month we will foster your little one's love of reading with stories, songs, and crafts focused on relationships ... the different people (and pets) we love and who love us. Age 3-5 with adult.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 11, 18, 25

**Spanchats.** 7 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join the ongoing Spanish conversation group. All levels from beginner to fluent are welcome. Adults.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 11

**Bollywood Dance Fitness.** 6:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join in a fun Bollywood dance fitness class inspired by music and movies of India. No experience necessary. Adults, Teens.

**Read to the Dog.** 7 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Read aloud to a trained therapy dog. Bring your own book or choose one from the Library. First come, first served - one 15 minute session per child. Age 5-11.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 12

**Wednesday Morning Book Club.** 10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. This month's title is “The Last Days of Night” by Graham Moore.

**Memory Depot Orientation.** 10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Let them introduce you to our Memory Depot station, a do-it-yourself location for scanning your slides, negatives and photos and to transfer your VHS or audio cassettes to digital formats.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 14

**Valentine's Night Out.** 6-9:30 p.m. At Herndon Community Center 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Herndon Parks and Recreation Staff will supervise and entertain children on Valentine's Day so that parents/guardians can enjoy a night out. Event participants will make crafts, play games and socialize with other children. Visit the Town's website at [herndon-va.gov/recreation](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation) or call 703-787-7300.