

Reston CONNECTION

Finn is a two-year-old yellow Labrador Retriever. We got him in Pennsylvania, and he loves his toys. - Adam Williams of Reston. Finn had jumped in the car with his people, Adam Williams, 16, of Reston and Adam's mom, Beth, to go for a ride to the North County Governmental Building, where he waited while Beth went in to vote.

Meet Reston's Best Friends

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OPINION

Budgeting the State's Resources

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



COMMENTARY

In contrast to the federal government's method of budgeting, the budget for the Commonwealth of Virginia is more than balanced. The state Constitution prohibits the borrowing of money for operations, and it requires a "rainy day fund" of reserve monies that can be drawn upon in an economic downturn. That is in part why the state has a perfect AAA bond rating giving it the best terms when monies are borrowed for capital projects.

Both the House and the Senate have completed work on their versions of the budget that was proposed by Governor Ralph Northam earlier this year. The two budgets will be reconciled in a conference committee that will resolve differences between the two. Total spending for the biennium will be about \$48 billion in general funds raised through taxes. Individual and corporate income taxes provide three quarters of the revenue with sales tax providing about seventeen percent and additional smaller taxes making up the rest. General funds coming from taxes make up about

36 percent of total revenue. Non-general funds that consist of fees such as motor vehicle and gas taxes, college tuition, federal grants and other fees make up 64 percent of the budget.

Noteworthy features of the House and Senate budgets that are being reconciled and are subject to change before a final budget is adopted include a much needed increase in rates for personal care providers in Medicaid programs, an increase in developmental waiver disability slots by 1,135 in the Governor's budget to 1,635 in the Senate version of the budget. While the increase will help, the number of persons on the waiting list still number in the thousands. The Governor and the House budgeted for 630 supportive housing slots for persons with serious mental illness while the Senate provided 1,630. Budget language provides for the establishment of a state-based exchange for health insurance.

The budgets of both houses provided for teacher raises as did the Governor's budget.

The amount differs in each with an expected three to four percent over the biennium. The ratio of counselors to students in the public schools will be improved. The Governor proposed a ratio of one counselor per 250 students. The House ratio is 325 and the Senate's is 300. Likewise, the ratio of teachers for English learners will be improved. A major point of contention among the Governor's and the House and Senate budgets is that only the House has proposed to restore the cost to compete funding for Northern Virginia schools because of the high cost of living in the region. The average per pupil direct aid for public school students range from \$6,206 in the Governor's budget \$6,297 in the House budget.

A major emphasis in the budget is an increased investment in preschool education that was championed by the First Lady. The Governor's "Get skilled, Get a job, Give back" (G3) funding to provide tuition assistance to low- to moderate-income students who meet certain criteria is receiving significant funding. The Housing Trust Fund will receive a much-needed infusion of cash proposed in all the budgets.

For information comparing the three budgets, go to www.thecommonwealthinstitute.org.

LETTERS

We Both Deserve \$15. Why Don't Our Senators Think So?

BY NICK RIVIERE AND
TONY HEDGEPEETH



Riviere



Hedgepeth

Like millions of Virginians, we work hard. As home care providers, we work every day to help older adults and people with disabilities live independently at home and in the community. By keeping people out of costly nursing homes and institutions, we save taxpayers money and deliver quality care.

We do the same work but in different parts of Virginia – Fairfax County and City of Richmond – and have different backgrounds. One of us is a 21-year-old assisting young adults with developmental disabilities and one of us is a 61-year-old Army veteran helping his fellow vets who suffer from PTSD.

However, we both love what we do. It's a blessing to be able to help others live with dignity.

We both deserve to make at least \$15 per hour and live with dignity ourselves.

Unfortunately, our Virginia state Senators seem to disagree.

Earlier this month, the Virginia House of Delegates passed a bill to raise the minimum wage to \$15 for all workers by 2025. They recognized that working families are falling behind no matter how hard we work, and that we need to build an economy that works for everyone.

The Senate, however, passed a bill which would create different minimum wages in different regions, even for workers who do the exact same jobs like us.

Their bill also forces workers to wait even longer to get a raise.

If the Senate bill becomes law, people working in Fairfax won't make \$15 until 2027, while those in Richmond won't make \$15 until 2032. Our fellow homecare providers and others working in Hampton Roads won't make \$15 until 2034.

Delaying the minimum wage increase for 14 years, and paying different wages for the same work, is not only unfair; it's unacceptable.

Every person who works hard and plays by the rules in Virginia deserves equal respect. We deserve living wages, paid sick days, affordable health care, a secure retirement, and the right to join together in a union.

While the cost of living varies in different parts of Virginia, we all feel the same pain when we struggle to pay rent, buy groceries and pay utilities. Housing costs are skyrocketing in both Richmond and Northern Virginia. Health care costs, food costs and transportation costs are all increasing. We need a state-wide \$15 minimum wage to ensure that no one gets left behind.

To our Senators, we ask: why should a home care worker in Richmond or Roanoke make less than a home care worker in Fairfax when we make the same contribution to Virginia's families?

We elected Democratic majorities to the House and Senate because they promised to deliver a brighter future for working Virginians. It's time that our Senators delivered on that promise.

A Time to Elect a Fixer

To the Editor:

As a physician who has treated kids in Northern Virginia for more than two decades, I've seen firsthand the transformative impact of the availability of high quality health care. It's also clear that uninsured families and high prescription drugs costs are a fiscal burden on families and means that people receive less timely medical care. The stakes of the 2020 election are crystal clear - do we stay on the same dangerous path of skyrocketing prescription drug costs and constant attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act? Or do we elect a fixer, someone who has spent his whole career solving problems? The choice is clear: we must elect Mike Bloomberg President.

A Bloomberg Administration would put the focus back where it belongs - on helping citizens like those I care for in Virginia every single day.

While the Trump administration has filed multiple lawsuits attempting to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Mike Bloomberg would use the federal government's bulk price purchasing power to dra

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Reston
CONNECTION

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Beckie Day reaches out to check a Virginia Absentee Ballot Application Form for completion before directing a voter to Table 2, where Election Officers will verify the information.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

Absentee Voting Underway

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, Feb. 22, thirteen satellite in-person absentee voting locations opened in Fairfax County, for the March 3 Democratic Presidential Primary. In-person absentee voting began Jan. 17 at the Fairfax County Government Center location. Registered voters came out strong in voice and number on day one at the North County Governmental Center, 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston.

Anna Neuman of Reston said she wanted a strong candidate who could beat President Trump. "I'm here to vote against Mr. Trump because he is destroying our democracy, the climate, animals and people in need," Neuman said. Mary Jane Cochrane of Vienna agreed. Cochrane wanted "a strong candidate to oppose Donald Trump," she said.

At 10:30 that morning, Joe Gofus, Co-supervisor for the North County Absentee Satellite Voting, Fairfax County Office of Elections, checked the number of registered voters who cast their ballots by in-person absentee voting. "Twenty, during the first hour and a half, from 9-10:30 a.m.," he said.

Beckie Day staffed the application table set up in the hallway leading to the voting area. She explained

the process to citizens as they arrived. "To vote, you fill out the (Virginia Absentee Ballot) Application Form. Some parts are prefilled, such as the Date of Election. The Reason Codes are on the back. No Social Security number is required. Then take it to Table 2 with the election officials, and they will verify the information. At Table 3, they give out the ballot and send you to marking tables, which is Station 4. The most important part? Put the ballot in the scanner," Day said.

Individuals who voted absentee in-person were subject to the same rules that applied to individuals who would vote at the polls on March 3. When the voting location closed at 5 p.m., Gofus reported, "We had a total of 110 voters vote at the North County Absentee Satellite office today." Absentee ballots are counted on election night, Tuesday, March 3 in the Central Absentee Precinct (CIP) and the votes are included with the absentee reported results according to fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.

The 2020 Virginia Democratic primary in the presidential nominating process will take place on "Super Tuesday," March 3. On that date, Virginia is one of the fourteen states as well as American Samoa, and Democrats Abroad that are holding a Democratic primary or caucuses.



On Feb. 22, 2020, Charlie Quinn, a Fairfax County Elections Officer at the North County Absentee Satellite office in Reston hands a paper to Rob Loesch of Reston, in-person absentee voter.



Joe Gofus, Fairfax County Office of Elections, Co-supervisor of North County Absentee Satellite Voting stands ready on the first day of in-person absentee voting for March 3, Democratic Presidential Primary.

VIEWPOINTS

—MERCIA HOBSON

Area voters discuss their preferences at Absentee Satellite Office in Reston

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Marina Klusas of Oak Hill, with daughter Sedona, 4.5: I'm going to be out of town Primary Day. Voting is always important, but now more than ever. It's especially important to have my daughter with me to see and experience the voting process. She's come with me every time and voted the first female President with me. I'm voting for Elizabeth Warren.



Jim Schlett of Reston: We will be away on March 3. At this time, I'm voting for Pete. He offers a great alternative to Mr. Trump, especially in thoughtfulness.
Gail Schlett of Reston: Ditto to what Jim said. Pete offers a new perspective with his youth and vitality.



Beth Williams of Reston: I'm trying to get it done because I'm worried I won't have time due to work on March 3. I feel it is my civic duty to show him (my son, Adam, 16) the importance of voting.



Adam Williams, 16, of Reston: I'll just miss (voting in) the mid-term elections in 2022. I'm looking forward to it (voting) because I feel it is important to make my vote count in an election.



Sharon Canner of Reston: I'll be voting absentee and casting my ballot for Biden. He leads in the national polls in the swing states. This is important that my vote goes to Biden because of the importance of the swing states' impact. I'm also here sharing information about phone banks and efforts to support Biden.



Anna Neumann of Reston: I'm here to vote against Mr. Trump because he is destroying our democracy, the climate, animals and people in need.

PET CONNECTION

Supervising Franklin

Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) and his daughter Delia hold her pet turtle, Franklin.



Bonding with Pack Mates in Reston

Cindy Morrow of Reston writes: Sam, the black and white Husky, has spent the past year bonding with pack mates, Blu, the while Husky mix and Molly. She has visited Molly's house on several occasions and likes to share lap space with Molly and Molly's mom, Margie Dellagiarino and with me.

PEOPLE AND PETS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE & PAT MCINTYRE OF RESTON
Belle Luna - 'big sister' to Ciel de Nuit and Moonbeam. - Pat McIntyre of Reston



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE & PAT MCINTYRE OF RESTON
Ciel de Nuit-delicate but with a bold voice. - Pat McIntyre of Reston



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STEVE & PAT MCINTYRE OF RESTON
Moonbeam, very shy. - Pat McIntyre of Reston

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This is Thor from Brazil — a Fairfax County resident. Thor loves walks around Lake Fairfax and Reston Town Center. The best friend a man could ask for. - Dominique Koethe and Andrei Ortiz of Reston



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Copper rescued us. He fetches, jumps for treats and he's simply talented. - Karen Parnicky of Reston

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

PET CONNECTION



Michael and Kimberly Murphy's five dogs standing in front of their front door in North Reston (Northpoint area).

Finding a Home in Reston

Michael and Kimberly Murphy moved to Reston in 2015 because they needed space for their "canine family" of five dogs. While serving overseas with the State Department in countries with significant street dog populations, the Murphys fos-

tered many dogs and ultimately adopted five of them. They found Reston to be the perfect place to live with their dogs, and they enjoy walking their dogs along the tree-lined streets and wooded paths around their neighborhood.

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OPINION

Climate Change at Our Doorstep

How Virginia is taking the high road.

By ROHAN MANI

Growing up in a world in which scientists predict we only have 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe is understandably unnerving for an 18-year old. And the most worrisome concern is that we are doing almost nothing about what is looming over the horizon.

For decades, our planet has experienced consistent increases in temperature, changing rainfall patterns, increasing frequency of floods, droughts, melting of glaciers and more. While cutting back greenhouse gas emissions responsible for global warming is the only way forward, limited progress has been made on this front. Coal and oil continue to dominate as major energy sources despite the availability of relatively cheap and abundant solar and wind energy. What then are realistic and sustainable solutions that we should pursue in order to leave a thriving planet for our children and grandchildren?

According to the Fourth National Assessment Report, the impacts of global climate change are already being felt in the United States and are projected to intensify in the future. But the severity of future impacts will depend largely on actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the changes that will occur. This report draws a direct connection between the warming atmosphere and the resulting changes that affect Americans' lives, communities, and livelihoods, now and in the future. Multiple studies have now projected that the climate of our region will turn more southern over

the coming decades. The unusually warm winter of this year may not be an exception but a norm for coming years. That means, less need for jackets, gloves, hats, scarves etc.

Many communities are attempting to answer this question in different ways. And it's been fascinating to see how some are gearing up to cope with immediate problems through advocacy and the support of local governments. It's obvious that communities need to adapt to a changing climate irrespective of what happens globally to reduce greenhouse gases.

There is, however, a ray of hope. The Virginia lawmakers passed an unprecedented climate legislation last week that will significantly alter use of clean energy in our power generation. The measure, called the Clean Economy Act, lays out a plan to get Virginia to 100 percent renewable generation by 2050. The legislation will significantly alter our generation energy capacity with solar and offshore wind taking the lead. That will not only reduce our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy generation but will put Virginia among the top US states in terms of dealing with climate change.

Climate change has the potential to significantly transform every aspect of our lives, ranging from where we live to what we eat and the stories we tell. It is an existential crisis for our generation and generations to come. I believe this is the time to act now to save the planet and it begins at our doorstep. We can do our own bit by driving less, switching to cleaner energy sources, using energy efficient appliances and reducing usage of water. As activist Greta Thunberg put it aptly, "the climate crisis has already been solved. We already have the facts and solutions. All we have to do is to wake up and change."

Rohan Mani is a Senior and a student journalist at McLean Highlander.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 2

matically bring down the cost of prescription drugs. Mike would ban drug company payments to the people who make decisions at pharmacies so drug makers compete on the value of their products — not on the amount of money they pay to get preferential treatment. As a businessman, Mike would also work to increase competition in the marketplace, giving consumers more options at lower costs.

Mike Bloomberg is a trained engineer, a businessman, and a philanthropist who has spent his life solving the big problems facing Americans and I know that if he is elected, he will work tirelessly to reverse the rising cost of

healthcare in the United States.

Marjorie Brennan
MD MPH Pediatric Physician
McLean

Targeted by Scammers

To the Editor:

Recently, I was stuck at home and unable to go to work for a few weeks due to health reasons. While to some people that may seem like a welcome respite from the drudgery of commuting to a 9 to 5 job, let me tell you it was not.

While Week 1 wasn't too bad, one can only watch so many episodes of Law and Order: Special Victim's Unit! What I would like to share with everyone is just how many calls we all get on our house landlines each day. When we're at work and don't answer, most callers don't leave messages so we have no idea of the volume of these calls each day.

I can honestly say that 99 percent of these calls are cold calling sales people or scammers! Yes,

there is the occasional call from Giant Food that "a prescription is due for pickup," but for the most part they are from strangers trying to separate you from your hard-earned cash.

Social Security scams, lower credit card interest rates, police benevolent association donations, hail damage inspection teams that are in my neighborhood and countless free vacations I've won where I only have to sit through a short two hour presentation, are just some of the calls I get every day!

Boredom forced me to pick up the phone and actually speak with these people. Civic duty caused me to engage in as long a conversation as I could so they would have less time to rip off my neighbors. They target the young and the old. Their metrics must show they succeed enough to make it profitable. And our number is registered with the "Do Not Call" list! Something must be done.

Bill Byrne
Oak Hill

Write

Letters to the Editor
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BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

DMV2Go at the Pavilion. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. At the Pavilion at Reston Town Center, Reston. 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.asp.

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Affordable Housing For Seniors: Preservation Project Kick-off. 1:30 p.m. At Hunters Woods Fellowship House, 2231 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Join in a kick-off of a major renovation project on the 225-unit Hunters Woods Fellowship House. They are investing \$12 million to modernize and upgrade this important community landmark that helps so many seniors who otherwise could not afford to live in the Reston area. Hear from all the key stakeholders – including the residents – what this project means to them and to the community.

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/healthyminds/fairfax or 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, during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or 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, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

Sunrise at Reston Town Center offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com to RSVP.

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Useless Is As Useless Doesn't Have To Do



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It began years ago when technology enabled many public bathrooms to change to hands-free. Other than the obvious hands-on responsibilities, many of the other elements no longer required any touching. Be it the paper-towel dispenser, the hand dryer, the hot and cold/on and off functions in the sinks, and of course, the urinal and toilet flushing functions. All providing a convenience never before possible. Other than an automatic entry/exit function for the bathroom door, and one as well on the inside for the stalls themselves, using many public bathrooms has become much less involved, shall we say, than ever before. And it has not stopped there. It has gone public in a very big way.

Driving, specifically through tolls, that is. Thanks to EZ-Pass, tolls or rather interacting with them by having to hand money over to a "toll collector," (or even to stop and toss money into a basket) has nearly been eliminated. Due to a device (transponder) attached to my licence plate, as me and my car approach the toll booth, I simply go about my normal driving business with nary a worry in the world. I steer into the dedicated EZ-Pass lane at a bit less than the posted speed, and ding!, as I drive through the toll booth, the toll is paid. No fuss, no muss, no window roll-down and no scrambling for change or digging for dollars. What's done is done so long as the yellow light illuminates and "paid" appears. (Although if what's done isn't done, you'll soon receive a paper bill in the mail at the address on file.)

Metro, our local public conveyor, also provides a hands-free or very nearly hands-free experience. If you have a plastic "Metro card" linked into their system, all you need do as you enter the turnstile is tap your card and go. No more standing in line at the "Fare"/"Add Fare" kiosks to load your card with money to start or end your journey. As with your EZ-Pass, once you sign up and link your Metro card to a credit/debit card, you are "In Like Flint," as some of us from a certain generation might say. Henceforth, your card is automatically updated to always provide sufficient dollars for this trip and any subsequent trips to make sense.

Now imagine if I had a "smart phone." How many more functions/people-free interactions might I enjoy with a tap, a scan or a wave? Unfortunately, I have what my wife, Dina calls a "stupid phone." That's a flip phone with no internet access. As such, I am cut off from an evolving world. A world in which I'll likely not have to interact with anybody or reach into my pocket for anything resembling money. All I'll have to reach for is my "smart phone." I've seen its functionality at the airport in lieu of a paper ticket, on Amtrak, at concert venues and of course sports venues. It seems to help speed up the entry process.

I don't really don't want to be the last flip-phone-holding man standing. But neither do I want to get into a life-accident while negotiating the learning curve. At the moment, the road ahead seems full of twists and turns with more curves than I can possibly imagine. How do I negotiate something I can't see? Moreover, how do I negotiate the road less traveled, by me? Where will I draw the experience necessary to acclimate to these ever-changing signposts? I mean, the words may be familiar, but some of the context may be off putting and counterintuitive, to me.

I'm not a complete Bozo. I have partially integrated into this new world. I have had insurance and car payments automatically debited from my bank account for years. I have some over-the-counter medicines, supplements and a variety of cat-related care and feeding products automatically delivered to my home. However, sometimes I feel like a pinball (and I'm no wizard) without the bells and whistles banging around trying to stay on top of what product is debit/paid and when. Now that's a service I could use: an automated weekly reminder of what's happening when. And the beauty of it, I wouldn't need any new devices. I use what I always use: my home computer. Turn it on, click the email, open, read and then close. Even Bozo the clown could do that.

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

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at 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.

“Ordinary Days.” Now thru March 15. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. “Ordinary Days” is an intimate musical about four young New Yorkers searching for love, beauty, and purpose in a big and unforgiving world. Performances are Thursday-Sunday and tickets start at \$40. This production is directed by Jay Brock, who previously directed Eurydice and Assassins for NextStop, and features Bobby Libby, Sarah Anne Sillers, Carl Williams, and Anna Phillips-Brown. Visit the website www.NextStopTheatre.org

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26

DMV2Go at the Pavilion. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. 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.asp.

“Downton Abbey” Movie. 10 a.m. At Meet Me at the Movies – Senior Movie Day at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents the feature film Downton Abbey. Refreshments and prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information: Ashleigh@reston.org. Call 703-435-6577 or visit www.reston.org

Wednesday Morning Book Club. 10 a.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Featuring A Woman of No Importance. If you enjoy history, biography and memoir, this is the book club for you! Each month, club members choose a new non-fiction title highlighting someone who's experiences offer an interesting perspective on life in both the past and present.

Memory Depot Orientation. 6:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Learn about the 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!

Off-the-Shelf Trivia. 6:30 p.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Want to find out how much fun a bookstore can really be? They talk, laugh, wander off topic, compete, listen to music and play trivia. The professional trivia master picks a theme and writes the questions; the staff awards prizes; and the customers are hilarious (and smart).

THURSDAY/FEB. 27

Toddler Storytime — Sesame Street. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Interactive games, duckie prizes, and puppet show theatre play time. Age 2 with adult. No registration required.

Homeschool Book Exploration. 1:30 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Explore a book's history, artistry and story. Come read with us and find out something new. Age 8-12. No registration required..

Teen Advisory Board. 7 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join TAB to gain leadership and volunteer experience and share your ideas about how to make the library a wonderful place for teens! Volunteer hours granted. Age 13-18. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700.

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. We will be discussing “The Next Millionaire Next Door” Thomas J. Stanley. The event is free and open to the public. Adults.

FRIDAY/FEB. 28

Duplo Play. 2 p.m. At Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Build and create using Duplo blocks. Age 2-5 with adult. No registration required.

Retro Game Night. 6-9 p.m. At Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, N, Lake Anne 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. The event is free and open to the public but 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/>

Indian Cooking. 6-7:30 p.m. At RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Learn to cook healthy vegetarian food from different regions of India. This will be a demonstration with some hands-on opportunities. Students will be able to taste the results. Cost is \$20 (R)/\$15 (R55+)/\$30 (NR), #503590-0A.

SATURDAY/FEB. 29

Get to Know Your Muslim Neighbor. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Celebrate community with fun multicultural activities for all ages. Enjoy food, exhibits, henna and arts and crafts. Free. Contact Adrienne Leo at adrienne.leo@fairfaxcounty.gov

Photography Class. 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. At ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. With Mary Louise Ravese, fine art photographer. This class is for digital camera users who are interested in learning how to successfully use their camera beyond automatic / program modes. The class concentrates on the 5 most essential camera settings that have the most



Master flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq. 7-8:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Experience the history of women in jazz through lecture, trivia and live performance. Presented by master flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq. Adults.

impact on the look of a photograph: focal length, aperture, shutter speed, ISO and white balance. Call 703-956-6590 or email info@artsherndon.org.

Line Dance Workshop. 3-6 p.m. At YMCA Fairfax County, 12196 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. Join Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association for an introduction to line dancing. Beginner Line Dance lessons followed

by a bit of open dancing for practice. You do not need to be a member of the YMCA. You do not need to be a member of the Association. Come see how much fun and exercise you get. Children must be at least 13 years old. Cost is \$5. Visit the website: NVCWDA.org

”Paris”Concert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At UCP Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. The Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington Maestro Dimitar Nikolov conducts an all-French program featuring works by Faure, Saint-Saens, Roussel, and Debussy. With guest soloist Alan Murray on piano. A “Meet the Musicians” reception will follow the performance. Tickets are Adults: \$30; Seniors: \$25; Students: \$20; Children free.

SUNDAYS IN MARCH (BEGINNING MARCH 1)

Sunday Fun-Day. 1-4 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Drop by the Children's desk on any <call>Sunday for a fun independent activity. Perhaps you will create a flannel board, or play Book Bingo, or explore the library with a scavenger hunt. We will have a new activity each month. Age 5-11.

SUNDAY/MARCH 1

Depot Reopening Event. 12-4 p.m. At Herndon Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. A Model Train Show, a working Telegraph Exhibit, and a Silent Auction of railroad collectibles at the Herndon Depot Museum. Visit the website: www.herndonhistoricalsociety.org

MONDAY/MARCH 2

Baby Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Enjoy nursery rhymes and songs while building early literacy skills for your child. Age Birth to 17 months with adult.

Preschool Storytime — Making Music. 2 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. This month we will foster your little one's love of all things noisy with stories, songs, and crafts focused on music. Age 3-5 with adult.

Pokemon Club. 6:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. We choose you...to bring your Pokemon trading cards to trade or play. Poke-crafts and games, too. Age 6-12.

TUESDAYS/MARCH 3

Toddler Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. An interactive, tot-tailored storytime for you and your child. Age 18 months to 2 years with adult.

Baby & Toddler Playtime. 11 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join us for an hour of unstructured play and social time for babies. Cosponsored by Friends of the Reston. Regional Library (FRRL). Age birth-23 months with adult.

Women in Jazz. 7 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Experience the history of women in jazz through lecture, trivia and live performance. Presented by master flutist Galen Abdur-Razzaq. Adults. (R)

”Boys Don’t Cry.” 8 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Boys Don't Cry is inspired by text from Chantal Thomas and is a funny and tender reflection on what it means to dance when you are a boy from North Africa and the Arab world. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

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

DIY Club - Calligraphy and Elegant Writing. 6:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. Join us to learn calligraphy and handwriting with lessons and exercises. Supplies provided. Adults, Teens.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Millennial’s Book Club. 7 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr., Reston. “Born a Crime” by Trevor Noah. Check out a library copy or pick up a copy of your own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s.

DINING

Street-style Mexican Food Comes to NoVa

Restaurant Review: Señor Ramon Taqueria, Reston.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

Amazing how restaurants grow. Take, for example, Señor Ramon Taqueria, a Tex-Mex taco place that started out in Loudoun (Leesburg) and the owner and management have since opened three more eateries. Their goal, according to a website blurb, has been “to bring authentic, street-style Mexican food to Northern Virginia; using antique homemade recipes and the freshest ingredients.”

Now, welcome to Reston, in the Home Depot shopping center, with its location on the opposite side next door to several local merchants. Obviously, the word has gotten out, for at a recent very early lunch, patrons began trickling in; one fellow was already seated with a tableful of taco containers.

Ordering here is easy...there is no waitstaff, so patrons need to eye the menu posted on the wall (or pick up a paper menu) and figure out what to order. With a dozen different Taco Ramon

taco choices and fillings, plus 9 traditional tacos, it may take a while to sort through the favorites...for the house tacos, fillings include carnitas (crispy pork) with caramelized onions; crispy shrimp with charred corn salsa; carne asada (grilled beef) with shredded cheese and guacamole; and crispy tripe with braised tongue, plus several more choices.

Traditional fillings include grilled beef short ribs, shredded beef, grilled chicken, and spicy lamb, plus more. Patrons can add to the assorted nacho choices (how about spicy lamb?), assorted sides like empanadas, roasted corn, and fried calamari sticks; tostados; tortas (sandwiches); and a choice of green bowls and sliders.

After placing the order and getting seated (or waiting for takeout) patrons can sip a beverage of choice, and within seconds (well, minutes), the order appears. On a nearby side table the staff has set up three choices of salsas, from mild, medium, to hot (flaming hot, fiery hot 12). Then, it is time to plunge in.

Dessert may or may not be available but if flan is on hand, that's a sweet way to end your taco feast.

Señor Ramon Taqueria, 11790 Baron Cameron Ave., Unit #4A, Reston. Phone: 571-313-0374. Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.