

# Reston CONNECTION

Participants in Camp Sunshine's 2020 Virginia Polar Dip take the plunge at Lake Anne.



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## NEWS

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

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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

**H**unters 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.<sup>o</sup>

*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).*

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# 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 re-evaluation 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)



### COMMENTARY

**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.

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://viriniagenralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php> for more dazzling action!

## New Starts in the New Year

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



### INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

**N**ew Fairfax County Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn is off to a running start. He's hired a staff of five—including one returnee from the Hudgins years and one of his Democratic Primary opponents, Shyamali Hauth. They appear to be a competent lot. He'll need them. In his first weeks, Walter has been everywhere every day it seems—very unlike his predecessor who was low key and not one for attending every event where there were two or more potential constituents.

He also speaks of, and is beginning to act on, new initiatives, getting to the substance of the Reston Supervisor's job. In fact, in his first Board of Supervisors meeting, he sought and got approval from the Board to revisit and update the Comprehensive (Master) Plan for Reston, all of Reston, including the Transit Stations Areas (TSAs). He's not only getting at a sore spot among Restonians, but also has chosen an initiative which will affect us all for the medium to long term.

Comp plans are supposed to be reviewed every 5 years, but rarely are. It is about 5 years since Reston's current plan, a pretty controversial one, was approved. It took about 5 years to prepare this plan. Alcorn says he'll get this one wrapped up in 12 to 18 months (wanna bet?). Crucial to putting together a plan that makes sense, and gets community acceptance, is assembling a working group representative of Reston while avoiding the extremes of being developer-driven or N.I.M.B.Y. (not in my

back yard) driven. The last time around the working group was developer heavy. And, the developer contingent was well organized with goals in mind, while those selected to represent the community were citizens wanting to do the right thing but uncertain what that was and they were not organized. With the right community leadership this time, we might get a better product. Mr. Alcorn knows this. In fact, he has decided to chair the process himself—a courageous decision perhaps, definitely a risky one. The responsibility for results will be quite clear this time! If he makes it truly a community project, he can repair damage and provide great benefit to Reston for a couple of generations. This is potentially the defining work of his tenure.

He has announced plans for a major initiative to improve Reston's pedestrian safety, a matter of concern in light of three pedestrian deaths in less than two years. Measures include more sidewalks and crosswalks, and specialized pedestrian signals and signage. We also may see pedestrian over- or underpasses sorely needed on major arteries such as Wiehle Avenue for both pedestrians and bicycle riders.

Like Ms. Hudgins, Alcorn has promised to continue to assign high priority to affordable housing. He cites a need to increase the affordable unit minimums required in new projects and to examine old, unused office parks and shopping centers as sites for new creative multi-unit developments. These con-

cepts are in the early stages of planning, but IMHO merit the effort.

At a more micro, local level, a home-owners association in our district recently experienced a modest revolution in its Board of Directors election. Incumbents who'd controlled it for some time were soundly defeated. They were replaced with a younger contingent promising to clean up the organization's finances and address overdue maintenance work. As is often the case in homeowner associations, transparency was also a major issue in the election. The new leadership is off to a good start, but it's not over. The old guard is not giving up. It's fascinating to see governance in action at the HOA level and realize its similarities to other levels. This will be interesting to watch!

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

**Chicken Dippers at the 2020 Virginia Polar Dip tickle their toes in the icy waters of Lake Anne Reston.**



**Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Cold Water Dive Team are there to lend a hand if needed.**

# Taking the Plunge

## Virginia Polar Dip returns to raise funds for Camp Sunshine.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he water temperature in Lake Anne registered a refreshing 41 degrees the day the Virginia Polar Dip returned to Reston. “The lake isn’t frozen this year,” said Gail Toth, event founder and coordinator. “So there’s no cutting through with a chainsaw. It’s actually a balmy day compared to some of the years we’ve had (the event),” she said.

Toth is the founder and organizer of the Virginia Polar Dip. Funds raised help support Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine, which is “near and dear” to Toth and her family. Twenty-three years ago, when Toth’s daughter Jennifer was a cancer patient at age three, they attended the camp located on Sebago Lake, 30 miles from Portland as a participant family. “We had an amazing time with other families going through the same things we were. We’ve returned every summer as volunteers. Now, we also fundraise so other families can experience the program. This is our 12th year,” Toth said.

According to Toth, her campaign goal for the 2020 Virginia Polar Dip was \$100,000. That would send 40 local families who had a child with a life-threatening illness to Camp Sunshine. Each participant in the Polar Dip had been asked to raise/donate a minimum of \$100. As of Feb. 1, the online Progress Roll showed \$46,474. However, donations would be accepted until the end of February.

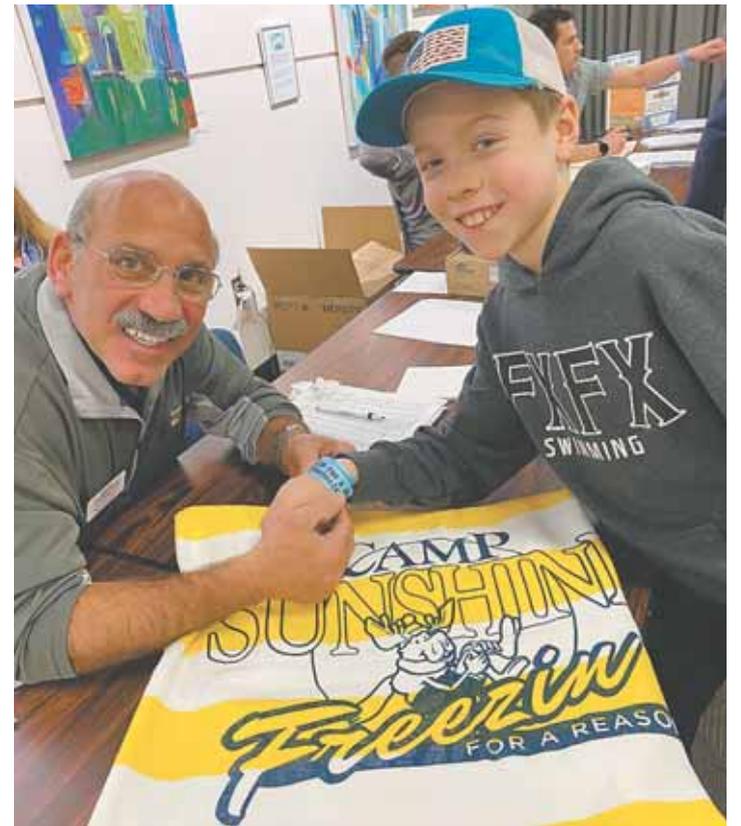
Announcer Andy Sigle took the microphone. He thanked everyone for their kind-



**After a plunge in the 41-degree water, the air temperature is a little much for a participant in the 2020 Virginia Polar Dip to benefit Camp Sunshine.**

ness and generosity. He said that since the event first began but not including this year, 1,806 individuals had participated and raised more than \$760,000.

Cancer survivor Jennifer Toth is now an adult. On the afternoon of the 2020 Virginia Polar Dip, she stood on the Lake Anne Plaza dock surrounded by hundreds of spectators, volunteers and approximately 150 individuals willing to do a little “Freezin’ for a Reason.” Chicken Dippers, children who would sit on the dock and stick their feet in the water, huddled with family members. Polar



**First time Polar Dipper, Becket Cumming, 10, of Vienna, receives his wristband from Michael Katz, Executive Director of Camp Sunshine.**

Dippers, those who would take the plunge, hopped up and down to keep warm. Meanwhile, members of Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Cold Water Dive Team treaded water close the jump-off and ladders, ready to help anyone who needed it.

“This cause is close to my heart both as someone who attended Camp Sunshine and as a pediatric oncology nurse practitioner whose patients benefit from the program,” said Jennifer Toth. “Thank you to everyone in the community who has embraced this event and made it such a big success. We

plan to keep this event going. Our goal is to have the VA Polar Dip raise over \$1 million,” she said.

Sponsors for the 2020 Virginia Polar Dip put together a family-friendly event with activities for children and music from Danny DJ. Sponsors included Kalypso’s Sports Tavern, David Madison Photography, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston Community Center, Salon Khouri, Ourisman Chantilly Toyota, Reston Association, Fairfax County Cold Water Dive Team, Manor Works Painting, Loebig Chiropractic & Rehab, and Onelife Fitness.

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**SPORTS**

**South Lakes Boys, Girls Win District Championship**

With 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 Juvianadean 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 Gregorys. 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, Juvianadean 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)

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## 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 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 [herndonva.gov/recreation](http://herndonva.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 [herndonva.gov/recreation](http://herndonva.gov/recreation) or call 703-787-7300.