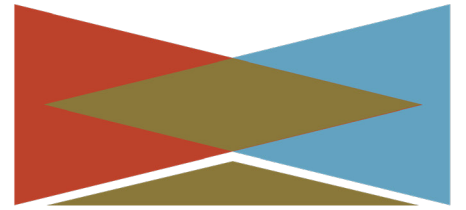


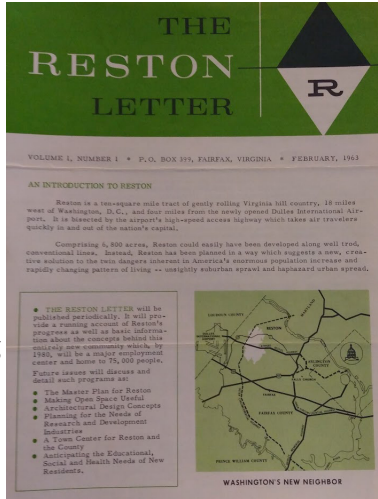
THE RESTON LETTER



A Promise to the Reston Community Why Reston Needs Its Own Newspaper

By Dawn Crosson, Editor

When I was five years old I won a coloring contest sponsored by the local grocery store. The grocer took my picture and it ran in the small local paper the next day. It's still in a photo album at my mom's house. When I was playing high school sports I'd race the family station wagon down the street to buy the newspaper at the gas station to read about my team's game the day before and keep track of my stats. There's nothing quite like your name in print, and nothing quite like a small town newspaper. Reston has a fascinating history, a vibrant present, and a promising future, but no truly local, print newspaper. Yes, you can Google *Reston news* and find a plethora of news articles, but there's nothing in your mailbox leaving traces of ink on your fingers and telling you stories of your community. There's a need for that. This will be hard. This will be expensive. Why should you trust me? I have over 20 years of experience in journalism, and I started and grew a successful local high school journalism program from the ground up.



first Reston Letter: 1963

I have lived in Reston for 15 years, with my three kids and husband. We are plugged in here, and we love it. I will fill the need our community has with this— The Reston Letter. A newsletter with this name ran in the 1960s for a few years as Reston was being born. It disappeared, only to be dug up in the archives at The Reston Museum this fall. I've gathered Restonians to form a staff that cares about Reston. People contributing live in Reston. We

know the area. We will not be writing about nearby places; we will be writing about Reston. It will be free of charge for Reston residents, paid for by Reston businesses. We designed a logo with the colors of the two public high schools Reston teenagers go to: red for Herndon, blue for South Lakes. We stayed true to the triangles so prevalent in Reston design and came up with this logo,

reminiscent of an envelope. We have a mission statement as a promise to you: our neighbors and friends.

"The Reston Letter seeks to inform the Reston community of local events- upcoming and past- highlight local groups' and individuals' accomplishments, and to provide a platform for residents to weigh in on local topics relevant to the majority of readers."

Everything to be published will be measured against the mission statement. If it doesn't hold up, it's not right for the paper's purpose or consistent with its mission and we will not publish it here. We aim to supply Restonians with the thrill of reaching into their mailbox and seeing what is happening in their town and what neighbors are concerned about. They will see their children's names on the honor roll, pictures of that field trip their fourth grader's took to Jamestown, highlights from their homecoming parade, maybe even see their cousin's little face as winner of a coloring contest at the grocery store.

Reston is ready for a hometown newspaper, and we promise to keep it *Reston*.

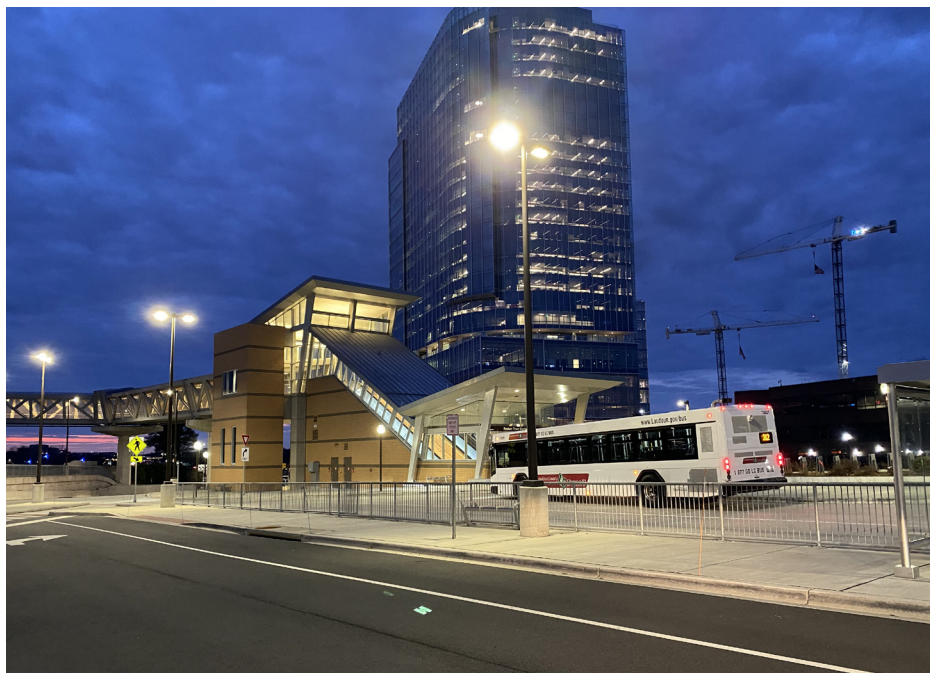
Silver Line Looks to Strike Gold in Reston

By Dylan Murphy, Staff Writer

With the new expansion of the Metro Silver Line in Reston Town Center and beyond, officials and community members alike are celebrating what looks to be a major step forward in the area's economic growth.

Now over a month after its opening, the Reston Town Center stop has seen bustling activity throughout the day, even aside from the rush hour frenzy. Commuters in the Reston area now have the option between RTC, Wiehle-Reston, and a new Herndon stop as well. Decades of development have provided a direct link to the Washington Dulles International Airport and Loudoun, a success not only to the benefit of Reston residents, but also to the DC area in its entirety.

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn has played a significant role in the finishing touches to the project, and envisions a stronger, better-connected community developing in the coming years. A key part of that vision is to provide an alternative to driving and the



Night falls on Reston's new metro station. Photo by Brian Crosson

associated environmental drawbacks. "In conjunction with the Fairfax County comprehensive plan's approach to focusing growth around transit, over time more people will use bicycles, and their walking shoes to get to their destination," Alcorn said. "Growth outside of transit

areas generates many more vehicle trips than transit-oriented development, and over time the environmental benefit of this new rail line will be significant."

The impact of the pandemic is still felt by many, and a good por-

tion of rail commuters rely on masks to limit the spread of sickness. Face masks remain optional, though passengers are encouraged to be mindful of others.

With the national spotlight ever vigilant and infrequent incidents garnering quick attention, concerns about the new stops' security have naturally popped up. "Transparency is healthy," Alcorn said. "It keeps Metro transit police on alert for criminal activity."

The Reston Town Center stop does not offer commuter parking, though the new Herndon stop does, in addition to Wiehle-Reston. The RTC stop is accessible via foot, bicycle, bus, or shuttle, along with a kiss-and-ride for drop-offs.

education



From theatre productions to shark dissections to food drives, here's what's going on in Reston schools.

sports



Stories of the annual basketball battles between our rival high schools and more

opinions



Thoughts on Reston's golf course development and our blogger Restonian's 2023 Reston outlook

the bulletin

A welcome from Reston Community Center, the story of a beloved book shop, timeline of golf courses controversies, spotlight on Reston Bible Church, Dolly Parton library in Reston

lifestyle

What the Reston Museum has been up to, restaurant review of Taco Zocalo, and a Reston housing roundup

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THE BULLETIN

Community Center Welcomes The Reston Letter

By Leila Gordon, Executive Director, Reston Community Center

Reston Community Center relies on essential partners to help us achieve our vision of enriching lives and building community for all of Reston. Among these are the many civic and non-profit organizations with whom we present programming.

However, the often-unsung heroes of thriving communities are the local news outlets that help keep

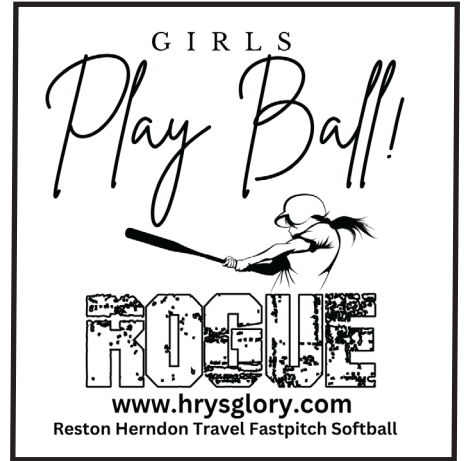
people connected. Reston is lucky to have an array of traditional newspapers, online news outlets and community-focused bloggers. Local journalism is how families share the triumphs of their children's extra-curricular pursuits. It's where we all discover



with sorrow the passing of a neighbor whose life touched many people and causes.

We are delighted to welcome The Reston Letter to our vibrant and active news, entertainment, education and (no lack of these) opinions scenes.

RCC looks forward to contributing and learning more about our neighbors and partners from your enterprise. Good luck!



What's the Deal with the Golf Courses? A Timeline

By E. Zirak, Opinions Editor and Rescue Reston

For over a decade now, tension has been mounting over the potential redevelopment of the Reston golf courses. A vocal majority of Restonians opposes redevelopment to maintain the open spaces as originally envisioned when Reston was founded and reconfirmed in the Comprehensive Plan for Reston in 2017, while a handful of individuals are open to discussing how the land may be better utilized. How did we get here? Here's the breakdown, according to Rescue Reston, a grassroots organization dedicated to defending Reston's golf courses as open space:

2012

Investor-owners of the Reston National Golf Course filed an inquiry on whether it could turn the site into residential development. Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning responded to the

inquiry that the golf course property may not be developed for residential use unless an amendment to the Fairfax Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

Attorneys for the owners of Reston National Golf Course filed an appeal to dispute this position, arguing the property should be entitled to residential development without the need for an amendment. Attorneys for Rescue Reston opposed this appeal and argued that the golf course was and continues to be restricted to use as open space.

2015

The case moved from the Board of Zoning Appeals to the Circuit Court, which granted a motion for summary judgment filed by Fairfax County and supported by Reston Association, individual homeowners, and HOAs of clusters bordering the golf course.

2016

Attorneys for the golf course filed a letter with the Supreme Court of Virginia stating they would not pursue an appeal.

2017

Connecticut-based developer Wheelock Communities purchases Hidden Creek Country Club.

2019

Developers from Baltimore, Weller Development and War Horse Cities, purchased Reston National Golf Course, in spite of public warnings including from our then County Supervisor that this property is not developable.

2020

Wheelock Communities spent many months engaging the community before Supervisor Walter Alcorn stated his position on redevelopment of Hidden Creek golf course: "Based on a review this week of all direct communications with my office via emails, phone calls and letters,

there is no support from surrounding communities for changing the comprehensive plan. In fact it is not even close. For every supporter of possibly changing the plan, more than five residents are against redevelopment. Therefore, I do not support changing the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan's current designation of this property as a golf course and consider the matter closed."

2022

After the Reston National owner-developers spent over a year engaging the community, Alcorn reaffirmed his opposition to the development of the golf courses:

Restonians will continue to follow closely the fate of the 164 acre Hidden Creek Country Club and the 166 acre Reston National Golf Course in the years ahead.

Spotlight on Faith: Reston Bible Church

By Rosemary Faul, Staff Writer

Each month we will meet with, interview, and feature a faith community in Reston. Our focus will be on their beliefs and outreach services so that Reston residents can be informed about our vibrant communities of faith and the many ways Restonians can be involved with ones that best fit their needs.

Humble beginnings, servant leadership, welcoming fellowship. These attributes and more describe the pastors, employees, and community of Reston Bible Church (RBC). Since its birth as a house church in a Reston neighborhood in 1974, RBC has remained grounded in one core belief



– to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known. Embracing and living out the tenants of their faith is evident throughout all aspects of the ministries sponsored by RBC and their impact on the greater Reston



Photos courtesy of RBC area and the world. From sponsoring food banks, to maintaining a community garden, to supporting 250 national and international missionaries, to sponsoring house bible studies, RBC acts as the hands, heart, and feet of Jesus Christ, providing hope, comfort, and strength to those in need. According to Pastor Bruce Campbell, who has been part of RBC since its humble beginnings, "...Living out faith in Christ is what we live for." So where does the church part come in?

Yes, RBC has a physical location with seats and lights and parking spaces, but its "real church" is the people who encourage, teach, and build one another up in the knowledge and grace of

Jesus Christ – the people who come through the doors of RBC many times a week to volunteer, fellowship, pray, and sing. At the forefront is Senior Teaching Pastor, Jim Supp who leads the Sunday services through biblical preaching and teaching at 9:00 and 10:45 am. Staying true to the Word of the Bible, his messages provide a light in a sometimes-dark world. Churches don't typically advertise, and this is not an advertisement. While Reston Bible Church seeks to care for those in the community regardless of background, they are excited to share a message of hope to all who don't believe or are not grounded in saving faith. RBC Pastor Jason VanDorsten recently summed this up in a succinct manner– "We're not out to bait and switch, we're just living out our faith."

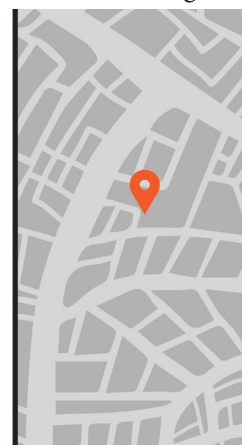
Come and visit – it may be just the thing your soul is seeking.

Reston Bible Church

45650 Oakbrook Court
Sterling, VA 20166

www.restonbible.org

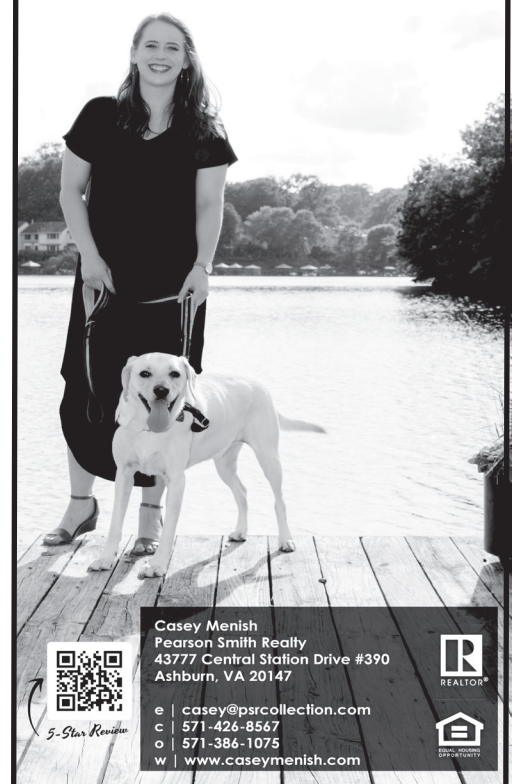
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5-Star Reviews

THE BULLETIN

Saturday, January 28 at 9 AM
Reston Summer Camp Expo
 RESTON
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 at Hunters Woods

Sunday, January 27 at 7 PM
Reston author Chuck Cascio
 speaks and signs his new book at
 SCRAWL BOOKS

Monday, January 30 at 8:30 AM
RESTON ASSOCIATION
 2023 camp registration opens for
 members
 Feb 6 for non-members

Business Spotlight: Reston's Used Book Shop

By Dawn Crosson, Editor

Being surrounded by books is calming; it's as if wise authors are whispering their secrets from the pages. And who doesn't need a calming experience in our world? A perfect place to feel that calm-- and nostalgia—is Reston's Used Book Shop, snugly situated at Lake Anne Plaza.

The shop opened in January 1978 when two friends decided what their young Reston needed was a used bookstore. They sold out their inventory on the first day, and have been a pillar of the Reston community ever since.

Bud Burwell was teaching at Fairfax High School, cultivating a collection of books for his students in his "broom closet" space. "I liked to keep it juicy over there. The kids would take books. Sometimes they'd come back, sometimes they wouldn't, I didn't really care as long as it was stuff that would draw them in," Bud said. While teaching, he worked part time at the bookshop in Reston for seven years. When the owners were ready to sell the shop, he and his wife, Susan, bought it. As they were already Reston residents, they could then fulfill Robert E. Simon's (Reston's founder) goal for his community; they could live,



Photo courtesy of Reston Used Book Shop

work, and play in Reston.

The Burwells went on to buy the dry cleaner's shop next door and connect the two spaces, doubling the size. On the wall is a rotating display placed there monthly by The League of Reston Artists through their Art in Public Places program.

The added space has seen many events over the years, including monthly readings hosted by a NOVA professor, countless book club gatherings, at least one marriage proposal, and even two weddings. For several years, a thespian staged readings of Dickens's "A Christmas Carol," in the space, performing all the voices as the snow

fell on the lake outside the small shop.

"We've got these magical manifestations that are associated with books, and everyone's got their own personal connection to the shop," Bud explained. "We never get tired of hearing their stories." The Burwells have been careful to keep things local and have been rewarded by a loving community.

"We've employed 15-20 high school and college students over the years," Susan said. "We get an average of six inquiries a month about jobs. 'We grew up here,' they say." The shop never has to go looking for used books to sell;

people are always calling and bringing in their books.

The best days are Saturdays when the farm market comes to the plaza. "There are kids reading all over the floor—which we love." To visit the shop is to go back in time. The stacks of books, familiar relaxing music, and lack of screens provide the calm that everyone needs. Nothing is computerized. Prices are handwritten on each book, and though they have a fairly good idea of which book they have in stock, you never really know until you get there what treasures you may find on the shelves. It's always an adventure.

Reston has proven itself to include a robust community of readers, and thanks to the fact that the Burwells are retired and community-minded, they are able to keep the shop open.

"We don't do it for the money," Susan laughed. "You pay your bills. You keep going. We're kept alive by the community." For such a business as the Reston's Used Book Shop, there is no price tag on the value it brings to the local reading community, or the calming effect it has on its generation of patrons.



Bud and Susan Burwell: owners since 1999

Dolly Parton Brings Books to Reston

By Terri Wright, Bulletin Editor

With the arrival of 2023 and the holiday season behind us, the joy and wondrous delight of children unwrapping new toys may be gone for another year. Yet, the fantastic world of stories arrives direct to mailboxes each month. Now Reston children from birth to five years old can enjoy books in their homes each month with curated selections from the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

In October 2022, the charitable RoSigle Foundation launched the Reston member arm of the Dolly Parton Imagination library with the goal of funding 800 children from Reston in its first year. With just over 223 Reston registrants in a little over three months,



Kim and Andy Sigle, and Kurt and Kim Rose pose with cardboard Dolly at a fundraising event for their RoSigle Foundation. Photo courtesy of RoSigle Foundation

the non-profit, formed by longtime friends and Reston residents, Dianne and Kurt Rose and Andy and Kim Sigle, is well on its way to reaching 800 children in the inaugural year.

After years of volunteering locally, the longtime friends created the RoSigle foundation in April 2022 with the sole purpose of backing projects which directly promote literacy and build community in the Reston. Under their stewardship one hundred percent of all donations go into the organization's current programs. In addition to backing

Reston children in the DP Imagination Library, the foundation also worked with Reston charity Kids R First to fill backpacks this past fall and sponsored Reston elementary schools who chose to participate in the annual Lake Anne Cardboard Regatta race.

The RoSigle foundation will fund any children who register in Reston. In order to join and participate, families simply must provide the local Reston zip code and address information. Simply click the link on the RoSigle foundation website and get reading with Dolly Parton and thousands of children across the United States and the world each month.

www.rosigle.org

EDUCATION 1

Here's What's Going On In Our Community Schools



Students at Armstrong Elementary organized a December food drive that resulted in over 700 food items worth over \$5,000 for local families. Sixth grade brought in the most food, so they voted to dress up favorite teacher, Mr. V. in toilet paper to look like a snowman. Photo courtesy of AES



Students at Hunters Woods Preschool work in their nature journals. They had big ideas they needed to capture right away! Photo by Nicole Reynolds



Aldrin Elementary Strings, Chorus, and Band students perform at their Winter Concert. Photo Courtesy of AES



Ninth graders at Dominion Christian School's upper campus dissect a dogfish shark. Photo courtesy of DCS



Herndon Middle School Principal Monica Voreb (second from the left) has been busy visiting students' homes. Here she visits the Kosteva family. Families can sign up to host her if they choose to. Photo courtesy of HMS.



Preston Wojciechowski, a Hunters Woods 4th grader, prepares for the school's Winter Concert. Photo by Maria Wojciechowski



Sunrise Valley Elementary kindergartners work together with their fifth grade buddies to make salt snowflakes. Photo from SVES Twitter

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www.threstonletter.com
info@threstonletter.com



Students at Forest Edge Elementary School concentrate hard at the Fact Fluency station on Math Night. Photo from FEE Twitter



Hopecam is a Reston non-profit with a mission to overcome social isolation in kids with cancer. As we celebrate 20 years in 2023, we are looking for supporters to help us expand our impact! Visit us at:

www.hopecam.org

ADOPT-A-CHARITY

Is your business looking for a partner charity? Hopecam is launching a fun, engaging, and philanthropic program with workplaces to help kids with cancer.

Contact Brett Fox at 571-313-1200
brett@hopecam.org



EDUCATION 2

Herndon and South Lakes' Theatre Students Astound

Both Herndon High and South Lakes High theatre students performed masterpieces that entertained the community this November. Herndon performed "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," led by Scott Pafumi, who is in his fourth year leading Herndon's theatre program. South Lakes High put on "Peter and the Starcatcher," led by Mike Viola, in his first year at South Lakes.

The hundreds of hours these young theatre students and their teachers practice to pull off one of these performances is astonishing. It involves not only cast and understudies, but a tech crew, stage managers, costume crew, props team, and directors. To attend one of these plays is a great way to support the community and experience a little local theatre.



Alec McManus (Lord Leonard Aster) looks on as Maddie Bobko (Smee) gives Josh Lewis (Captain Stache) a manicure. The devious captain is in the midst of coming up with an epic poem during South Lakes High School's fall performance, Peter and the Starcatcher. Photo by Matthew Mitrani



Ace Kasali, Bo Chatterjee, and Sarah Hawn as Polonius, Ophelia, and Horatio, respectively, in Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead at Herndon High School in November. Photo by Chris Pinover



CONGRATULATIONS!

The Pride of Herndon Marching Band has been selected to participate in the **2023 Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade** in Waikiki, Hawaii on December 7, 2023



Photo Courtesy of Pride of Herndon Marching Band

Sylvie Bowen and other Forest Edge 6th graders focus on building the best igloo out of toothpicks and mini marshmallows at their holiday party. Photo by Isadora Guerreiro



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Spend Your Summer with Reston Community Center

Summer Camp Guide 2023

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REGISTRATION OPENS:

February 1 – Reston
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This fall, South Lakes High School inducted 168 students into the National Honor Society
Photo by Chris Moorhead

SPORTS

Hornets and Seahawks Split at Their Yearly Battle



Herndon High's Luke McDermott goes up for a layup in the game vs. South Lakes on Dec. 9

Photo by Jonathan Tran

By Michael V., Jr. Staff Writer

The atmosphere was electric in the Herndon High School gym on December 9, as the girls and the boys varsity basketball teams from South Lakes and Herndon high schools faced off. The bleachers were packed with fans and students supporting both schools with cheers, chants, flags, and drums. Herndon and South Lakes is clearly a big rivalry.

“It definitely is as intense on the court as it is in the stands,” said Herndon junior Blake Johnson. “The stands are really loud and they put a lot of pressure on you.” But Johnson noted that even in an intense rivalry

game players “have to fight through it and stay poised throughout the game.” Herndon freshman Piper Xeller, who was playing in her first Herndon-South Lakes rivalry game,

agreed. Despite knowing several South Lakes players, she said that the rivalry makes her “want to win and play well.”

The girls led the evening showdowns with a hard-fought game. The Seahawks kept it close in the first half, with the teams trading baskets back and forth. The Hornets pulled away in the second half, ultimately winning 48-37. Seniors Aylin Humpherys and Annelise Castillo led the Hornet charge, scoring 25 points and 18 points, respectively. Xeller described that the seniors are always important team leaders, and that Herndon’s seniors “always lead very well.”

The boys finished the night with a close, fast-paced game that was tight for the first three quarters. In the fourth quarter the Seahawks changed their play style and were pressuring Herndon with the full court press, creating turnovers, and capitalizing with their layups. South Lakes juniors Brian Kennedy and Aiden



South Lakes and Herndon dance teams delighted the crowd with a combined dance.

Photo by Johnathan Tran

Billings led the Seahawks in their 79-61 victory over the Hornets.

The Herndon vs South Lakes rivalry has been fierce since the 1970’s and this was just as good with an entertaining two games.

Herndon Highlights

Submitted by Herndon High School Athletics Department:

Herndon High's varsity football team made major improvements this fall, winning their first games since 2018. The team ended up with six wins and five losses. They played in the regional tournament, but lost to Westfield in double overtime.



Photos from Hornets Twitter



Herndon High's Gillian Bushee, track and field and cross country star, won the VHSL Cross Country State Championship and finished 24th in the women's 5,000 meters national championship. She will be running for the University of Virginia in the fall.

Youth Sports: Reston Raiders 14U Hockey Team Wins Congressional Cup



Reston Raiders 14U travel hockey team won the local Congressional Cup this November. Players Aidan F, Austin, Aiden S, Blake, Calvin, Carter, Clark, Dylan, Jackson, James B, James P, Jamie, J.S, Miles, Nikki, Shawn, Spencer, and Stephen are coached by Andrew Sundelin and Jennifer Grot-peter. Photo by Erick Nuckols

South Lakes Athletes Make WaPo All-Met Teams

Submitted by Seahawks Boosters: South Lakes High School Athletics celebrate two Fall Sports student athletes on their selection to the Washington Post High School Sports All-Met teams. Kai Gibson and Amelie Beckett, both seniors, were named to the All-Met second team for Cross-Country and Field Hockey, respectively. Our congratulations to these students on their athletic accolades and continued best wishes!

Kai Gibson

Gibson led the Seahawks this season finishing as the Individual Champion at the Woodberry Forest Invitational. The Seahawks brought home Runners Up placements at the District and Regional meets led by Kai who finished as the Individual Champion at both the Concorde District and Northern Region meets this season. Named to the All Concorde District and All Northern Region teams, Kai competed at the State meet with the Seahawks who took 5th place.



Senior Kai Gibson
Photo by Ed Lull

Amelie Beckett

Beckett, the starting goalie for the Seahawks, finished her Varsity career with a 20-5-1 record which included 12 shutouts. Amelie carries a career save record of 151 averaging just under 6 saves per game. Amelie and the Seahawks were Concorde District champions, Northern Region Finalists and finished 5th in the State tourney. Amelie was named to the First Team All Concorde District, First Team All Northern Region, and First team All State.



Senior Amelie Beckett
Photo by Chip McCrea

OPINIONS

Why Reston Needs Its Two Urban Golf Courses

By Doug Britt, Reston Ecologist*

It may seem excessive for a town to have two golf courses. So does Reston really need its golf courses? Well, yes, it does. Reston's two golf courses preserve a diversity of habitats in a highly developed urban setting. They also contain transition areas where different plant communities (urban forest, grassland, meadow, and wetland) intersect. Such transition areas often support high biodiversity and offer conservation potential in what otherwise are ecologically simplified urban landscapes.

In 2018 Reston was designated a member of the prestigious Biophilic Cities Network – a network of progressive cities around the world that purposefully connect their residents with nature in significant and extraordinary ways. Reston was clearly designed to do just that by its founder's (Robert E. Simon's) guiding principles: its 55 miles of walking, hiking, and biking paths and its 1300 acres of open space and natural areas. Reston's golf courses have the potential, if managed wisely, to be valuable environmental assets. They should be another extension of the way Reston connects its people with nature where they live, work, and play.

Deer, fox, groundhogs, chipmunks, and gray squirrels are commonly observed during daylight hours at our two golf courses. More secretive or nocturnal mammals such as voles, mice, flying squirrels, coyotes, possums, raccoons, and skunks use the wooded margins of the roughs during the late evening hours. The golf course ponds harbor various species of

turtles, frogs, toads, and salamanders.

Birdwatching around the golf course margins can be very productive: more than 100 bird species have been observed from the two Reston courses. A pair of red-tailed hawks have fledged several young at Hidden Creek Golf Course each of the past several years, bald eagles occasionally stop over, and the peregrine falcons that nest at Town Center are occasionally seen hunting along the fairways. Bluebird populations around the courses have been increasing.

Hidden Creek Country Club



hosts nesting Eastern Kingbirds, and the two courses are the only two community nesting sites in Reston for purple martins. Reston National Golf Course was recently re-certified as meeting the requirements to be listed as a Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Course by Audubon International. Proper turf management on golf courses builds healthy soil microbial communities and encourages large earthworm populations that create biopores that oxygenate the soil and facilitate stormwater

retention and groundwater recharge.

Some Virginia courses have established "pollinator gardens" around their tee boxes to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Reston National has planted 25 acres of native wildflowers and hosts honeybee hives to help with pollination. The overall contributions of Reston's two golf courses to the environmental health of our community should not be underestimated.

Our community golf courses provide both passive and active recreational opportunities to residents while

presented in Reston Association's 2020 State of the Environment Report (RASER). Replacing well-managed golf course fairways and roughs with homes and businesses has the potential to increase the amount of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers introduced into Reston's Difficult Run watershed by new landowners who may not follow best practices. More roads, driveways, and parking areas generated by development will inevitably lead to an increase in the use of winter de-icing agents, further aggravating the rise in the salt content of our streams.

Don't buy into the scare tactics that some pro-development organizations are spreading about the environmental threats represented by Reston's golf courses. Development of these precious open spaces would do a great deal more harm to the future of our community, including its residents, water quality, and native flora and fauna. Reston needs its golf courses.

enhancing habitat diversity and species richness for flora and fauna. More importantly, their designation as dedicated open spaces prevent them from being developed. Commercial and residential development of these open spaces would greatly increase the impervious surface area that drains into Lake Fairfax, Lake Thoreau, and Lake Audubon, exacerbating stormwater runoff which is currently one of the major environmental threats to our community, based on data

*Doug Britt was honored as a 2019 Volunteer of the Year for his efforts to guide Reston into becoming a member of the Biophilic Cities Network. Mr. Britt is a professional ecologist, Virginia Master Naturalist, and currently serves as Chairman of Reston Association's Environmental Advisory Committee.

In Reston, What's Old is New Again in 2023

By Restonian, Local Blogger

Everything old is new again, even in a plastic fantastic jet age planned community like Reston! We've been blogging about Reston for so long that we remember the last time that print newspapers were a thing, and here we are, holding this one in our slightly more wrinkled hands. So what will be new for Reston in 2023? A lot of the same—only with better prepared food options. Let's get right to it:

A Dream Realized

Restonians have been lobbying for Wegmans to come to whatever vacant space was currently available for years, and thankfully the grocer found a more suitable location than a storefront at Lake Anne without hot water. Scheduled to open on Feb. 1, the new Wegmans location will keep us from having to head to Loudoun County for sushi and spanakopita (or as they call it in Ashburn, "those fancy spinach and cheese triangles we serve on Bunco nights.") Also, Barnes & Noble is returning after a decade-long absence. We've had a great used bookstore and a great independent one all along, but now might be a good time to relearn how to read.

Metro Fun

We're so old we remember when Loudoun County's board of supervisors narrowly approved the Silver Line

extension into its vast particleboard-dotted interior by exactly one vote, but now if you want to ride the train to Ashburn or Innovation Station (whatever THAT is), you can! Jetsetters may also want to consider taking the Silver Line to its new station vaguely near Dulles, where the moving side-walks on a convenient underground walkway to the terminal

will serve as a slightly less irritating ride than the airport's People Movers. It's been a tough road to get here, what with rusty tracks, defective cement, recalled train cars, the mass shift to remote and hybrid work, and (insert one of the dozens of shocking news stories about Metro Phase 2 construction here). Let's hope Metro can get its collective act together and remain a (mostly) functioning transit system. Reston's got a lot riding on it, even if it's just to avoid paying \$11+ to take the Toll Road to the mall in Tysons.

No More Mr. Nice Guys

For the past several years, the developers who bought both of Reston's golf courses out of what must have been a sheer love of the game have been Deeply Concerned about Robert E. Simon's vision, as expressed by their extensive studies of the dangers of invasive plants, low "walkability scores," and the dearth of nearby amenities like, wedunno, axe-throwing

distilleries where you can get an artisanal shave between swings. They've promised Grand Parks and Conservancies and Linear Parks, all out of the goodness of their hearts, in return for which they just asked for just a soupcon of development in just a teensy corner of what was once green, English-ivy infested open space.

They wanted to be "good neighbors," to correct the longstanding North-South Reston divide, and to support the original "Reston vision," inasmuch as the original Reston vision involved building a boatload of townhouses on empty land. Heck, one even offered an open bar at its "community input" meetings!

Well, since virtually no one bought into these respective visions, expect some less neighborly language in the year to come. Instead of "invasive ivy" and "access to amenities," we'll hear words like "by-right development" and lots of ginned-up conversations on social media about NIM-BYs, as if there have been loud protests against all the other high rises and office space that have gone up right along the Toll Road, which is where development should be happening, not in what little open space remains in the entire region.

Soviet Style Elections—and some big money ones. With five open spots on the RA Board of Directors, it's

looking once again like we'll have a Soviet-style ballot in which many races will have exactly one candidate. That's a shame, because while serving on the RA Board is only slightly less thankless than having to deal with Gladys' purple door if you're on the local cluster board, it's an important job, especially now.

On the other end of the spectrum, the terms of the current Fairfax County Board of Supervisors expire on Dec. 31, 2023, meaning all of those seats will be up for grabs in November. Most, including our own representative on the board, Walter Alcorn, say they're planning on running for re-election. Remember that last time around, a non-golf-curious property owner recognized that a development-friendly Hunter Mill supervisor was worth \$255 a vote, and it's starting to look like the stakes for this election will be even higher. What else? You know, the usual—wondering what midscale chain emporiums will be arriving. Watching new buildings go up and wondering if any of their corners will meet at a 90-degree angle. Grousing about pools, pickleball, and paint schemes. And blogs. No wait, those were never in style, the end.

Read more at restonian.org

Restonian

LIFESTYLE

Taco Zocalo: A Must-Visit for Hungry Restonians

By Emdad Swapan, Social Media Manager, Staff Writer

Reston is a city with a beautiful array of exemplary cuisine. Taco Zocalo happens to be home to magnificent tacos that many customers enjoy.

Founded with the name “Chef on Wheels,” the restaurant was originally on the go in a red food truck. In November 2017, Chef Basir opened Taco Zocalo to bring his authentic recipes to Reston.

The dish that blew me away was the restaurant’s most famous dish: birria tacos. “Shredded beef corn

tortilla tacos with cheese, onions, and cilantro. Served with consommé for dipping.”

I’ve had a lot of birria, especially from attending school in Richmond, but their birria is the one that caught my attention. The combination of flavors compliments your taste and makes for a splendid meal.

“It’s our most popular meal, especially on our Tuesday special,” said the manager. Some things that caught my attention were how excellent the service was and how well-organized it was.

My food was prepared very quickly. The staff treated me respec-



Photos by Brian Crosson fully and made me feel like a well-valued customer. I also enjoyed their steak taco because it was unique in flavor and not your ordinary taco.

Missy Galus, a frequent customer and Reston Letter follower, told us, “My whole family LOVES most of their tacos, especially my little one who is our pickiest eater!” She emphasized,

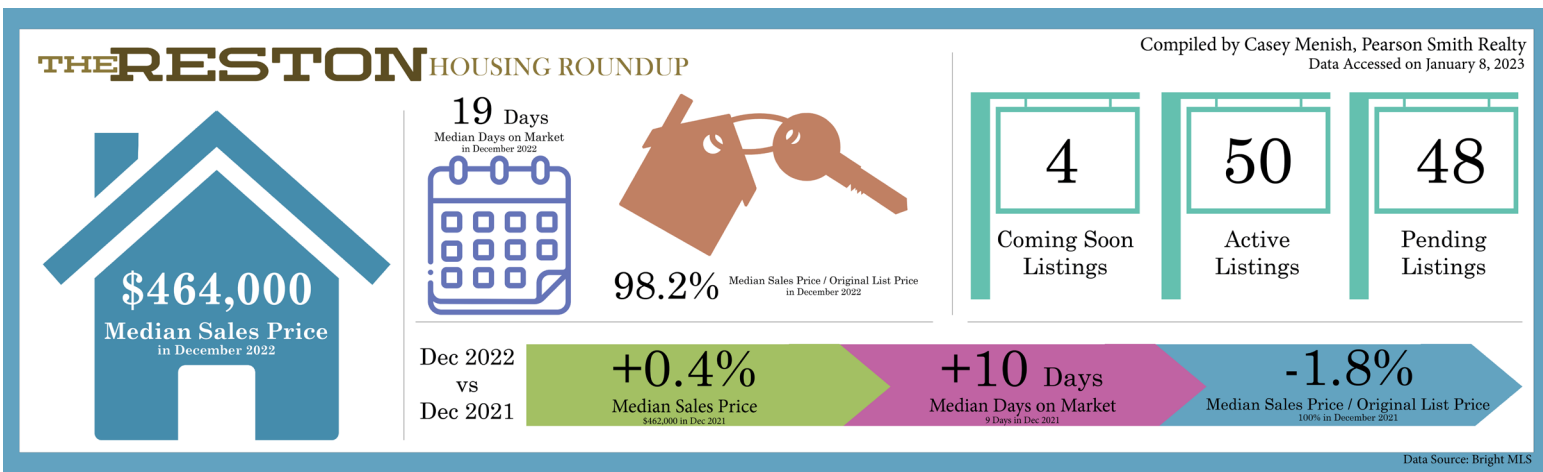
“They will custom make them for you to fit your personal taste buds.” Reston Foodie, an Instagram page, told us, “They have a large variety menu, every bite is guaranteed deliciousness.”

Another customer said, “What an absolute hidden gem. Some of the best Mexican food I’ve had in the area. Burrito was huge for the price, meat was tasty and well flavored. The sauces they have are the perfect pairing. My favorite was the extra hot which had great flavor and a good spice.”

The tres leches tasted homemade just like Tia made. A must visit!”



What's happening in Reston Housing



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Visit The Reston Museum!

Submitted by The Reston Museum

Reston Museum opened its doors in 1997 at Lake Anne Plaza with a mission to preserve and share Reston's history with the community. The Reston Museum hosts annual events and programs such as the Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta, Reston Home Tour, and Founder's Day. The museum maintains an archive of over 3,000 artifacts,



hosts permanent and rotating exhibits, as well as installed and cares for the Lakeside Pharmacy Icon exhibit, Untold Stories (aka Bronze Bob) by Zarchy Oxman. 75% of the museum's events and programs are offered free of charge, including visiting the museum! Today, it can be hard to imagine how radical Reston was in the 1960s - a city-like community surrounded by wooded farmland. Reston's beginnings offered much that was new at the time but appreciated today - Reston's

lakes, walking trails, the proximity of practical and recreational amenities to homes. Reston's mixed-use development and clustered density were new to Fairfax County when Reston was founded but these concepts have revolutionized America's suburban neighborhoods. While

Restonians today can appreciate all Reston has to offer, the Reston Museum's exhibits and programs share how Reston's founding got us to where we are today.

The museum is worth a visit by anyone interested in discovering more about the history of our unique town.



Lake Anne Cardboard Boat Regatta brings out Reston's creativity. Photo by Charolotte Geary

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