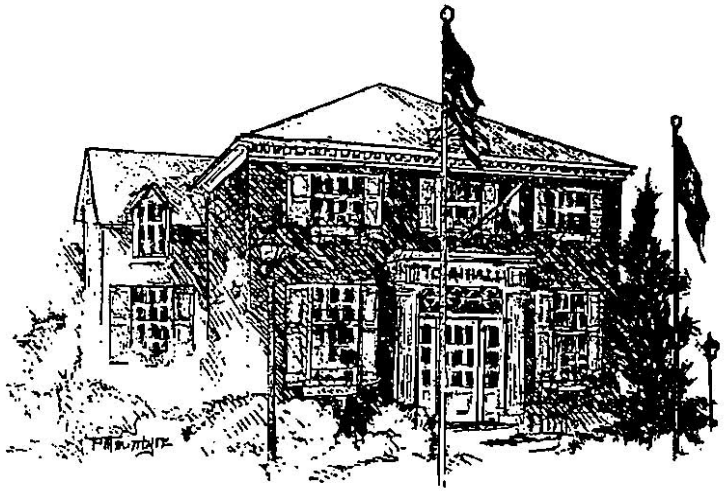


TOWN OF HERNDON, VIRGINIA
PROCLAMATION
BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEBRUARY 2025

Each year throughout the month of February, events are planned nationwide honoring the history and impact of Black Americans. **Black History Month** began as part of an initiative by writer and educator Dr. Carter G. Woodson, to raise awareness of African American's many valued contributions to civilization. The event was first celebrated in 1926, observed during a week in February that included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Dr. Woodson's concept was expanded to a month, and since 1976, each February has been proclaimed **Black History Month**, with the celebration of Black history occurring in other countries around the world.

As the Town of Herndon celebrates **Black History Month,** we honor those who have played a critical role in the creation of our nation through their labor, leadership, intellect, and creative endeavors; and we acclaim the sacrifice, accomplishments, and unyielding spirit of our nation's great civil rights leaders, including Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. Du Bois, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fanny Lou Hamer.

Locally, we honor and celebrate the historically Black communities of Cooktown and Oak Grove, which served as the centers of Black life within the town and region, and we recognize the strength and perseverance of those residents and business owners – including blacksmith Henry Simms, Herndon's first Black business owner.

Therefore, the Mayor of the Town of Herndon, together with the Herndon Town Council, hereby proclaims the month of February 2025 as **Black History Month** in the Town of Herndon; encourages all citizens to celebrate Black history and culture – emphasizing the importance of educating others about the contributions and accomplishments of Black Americans; and highlighting the resolve of Black Americans, who helped build our nation and furthered the cause of social justice.