

Snow Days

NEWS, PAGE 7

Liam Toole of Herndon, 8, catches some air while sledding at Lake Fairfax the Sunday after the snowstorm.

Herndon In 2010

NEWS, PAGE 3

Herndon High Latin Students Win State Competition

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PHOTO COURTESY STEVE TOOLE OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 9 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 8

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SCHOOLS

Senior Policy Advisor Veronica Epley completed a Master of Arts Degree in Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security on Dec. 18 in Monterey, Calif.

Epley has held a number of positions within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, with responsibilities for policy, program evaluation and information sharing. She currently serves as Senior Policy Advisor to the Director of the Contingency Planning and Incident Management Division of the Office of Infrastructure Protection. Her duties include policy and strategy analysis and development; Congressional studies and responses; and front office mission integration, information sharing, and process improvement. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester and resides in Herndon.

Sara Nourian of Herndon has been named a national outstanding campus leader and included in the 2009 edition of Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Nourian is majoring in Business Administration and in the honors program at Marymount University.



Give Together
Volunteer Fairfax Presents
a Family Volunteer Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service
Monday, January 18, 2010
from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
George Mason University's Johnson Center

Families of all shapes and sizes can volunteer at projects with Fairfax 4-H, FACETS, the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia and the Orphan Foundation of America – in the convenience of one, central location.

To register to participate, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.
Walk-in registrations will be accepted as supplies are available; pre-registration is encouraged. Projects best suited for elementary-aged children.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."
Martin Luther King, Jr.



Volunteer Fairfax





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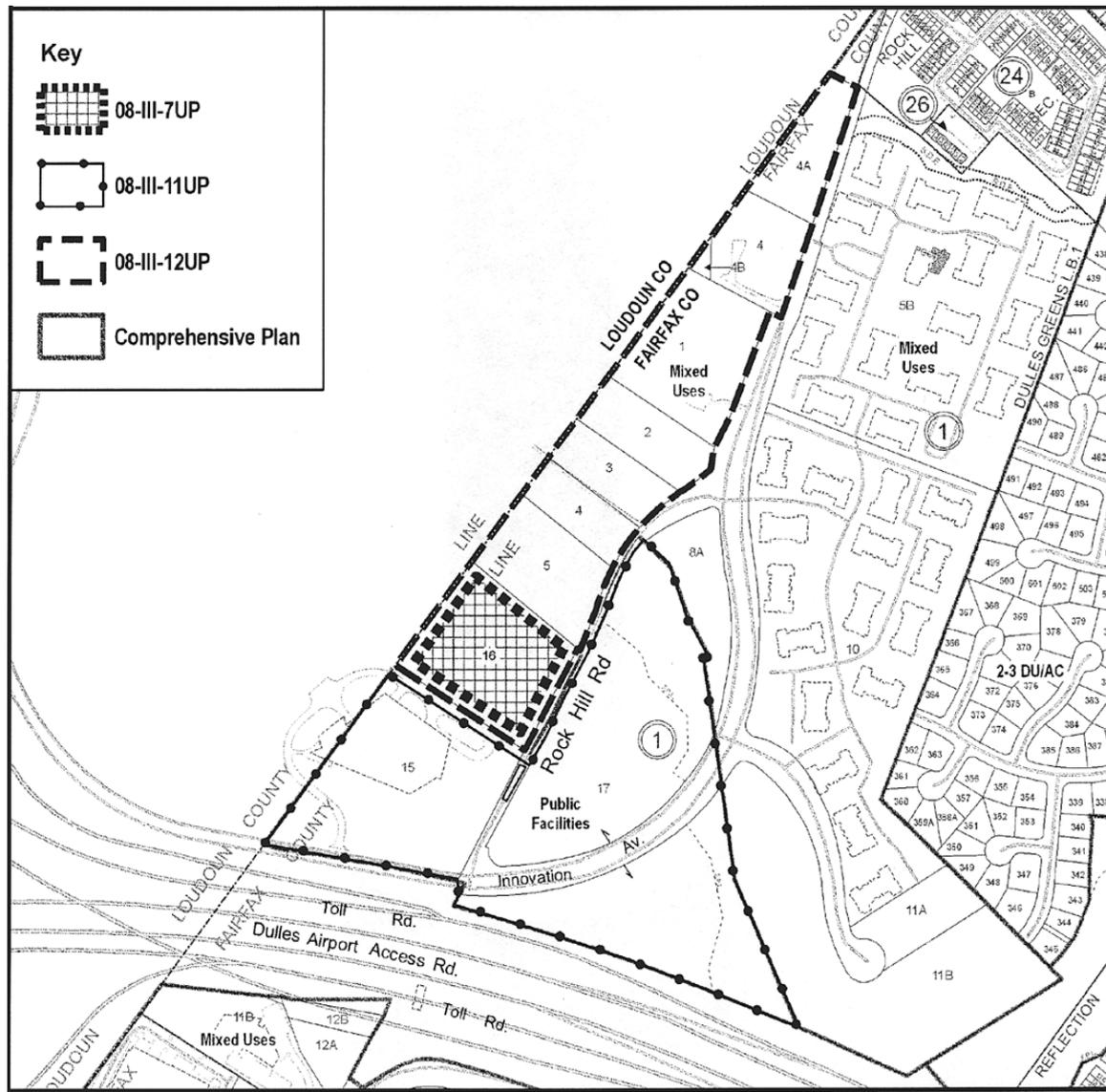
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COURTESY
FAIRFAX COUNTY

The county will consider plans for three developments north of the planned Route 28 Metro station this year. Only a small fraction of the Dulles World Center development, cross-hatched here, would lie in Fairfax County, with another 70 acres in Loudoun.



Herndon in 2010

Issues to watch in the year ahead.

BY MIKE DICICCO
THE CONNECTION

A Plan for Downtown

In late November, Urban Design Associates presented options for the redevelopment of downtown Herndon to a largely enthusiastic crowd. The town had contracted the firm to work with officials, residents and businesses to come up with plans of varying density for about 10 blocks in the downtown area. The contractor presented detailed options on a block-by-block basis.

The Downtown Master Plan Steering Committee, appointed last year by the Town Council, is expected to issue its final recommendation on the plans sometime this month. Following public hearings before the town Planning Commission and the Town Council, a final master plan for the downtown is to be adopted sometime in March or April.

Central to Urban Design's plans were the ideas that retail, dining and entertainment businesses be arranged in a sort of pedestrian-friendly "shopping loop," more residential space be brought into the downtown and the green space around the W&OD Trail be expanded. Various other contractors have been analyzing plans to make sure they are



DRAWING BY URBAN DESIGN ASSOCIATES

This sketch by Urban Design Associates depicts a higher-density option for redevelopment on Elden Street. The firm was contracted to come up with redevelopment options for the downtown area, and a final plan should be approved this spring.

feasible in terms of economics, infrastructure and other factors.

Once the plan is in place, it will provide guidance for any builder or builders that want to develop or redevelop in the downtown area.

Belt Continues To Tighten

Having reduced its budget by 6.3 percent

SEE 2010, PAGE 11

VIEWPOINTS

What is your wish for the Herndon Community in 2010?



Lee Guyton, National Counter-Terrorism Center, Herndon

"More community outdoor events. More family oriented type of stuff."



Andy Turner, Car Audio, Herndon

"Get rid of the buses. They hold up traffic. They hit people. Less buses."



Sydedah Hutchinson, Receptionist, Herndon

"I wish for more services to those people

that are poor. The community needs to have more free services and places like free clinics."



Maricela Baez, Storage Consultant, Herndon

"I wish for more jobs in the area. I used to be able to pick up the

Connection Newspaper and see a lot of work in there and now there's nothing. For 2010, as the economy grows, I hope more jobs become available in Herndon and Reston."



Enrique Baez, Construction Worker and Carpenter, Herndon

"I see that the illegal immigrants that used to hang out at

the 7-Eleven are starting back up again. They do have a place for them to go — the old police station, but it's kind of far for a lot of them to get to. A lot of them don't drive because they don't have cars. Maybe they could find something closer to have that resource center that they could get to."

— ALLISON AUSTIN

Happy New Year

Keep in touch.

At the Connection, we invite our readers to fill us in, literally. As we begin the New Year, we are reminded that we need to hear from our readers.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help.

Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see some-

thing that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

It is especially important to us to let people

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

New Year's Resolution with Staying Power

To the Editor:

It is the time of year again when the subject of making a New Year's Resolution comes to mind for many of us.

Here's a novel suggestion that could provide long lasting benefit and value for many people even for people who haven't been born yet.

Have you ever considered writing something about your life to pass on to your family and close friends? We all hope to be remembered and valued for the part our

lives have played in the lives of our family and friends. Therefore, what better way to make a written record than to sit down and do a little "story telling?" I'm not talking about a scary theme paper such as the one you were told to write by your fourth grade elementary school teacher. I am talking about putting pen to paper and recollect those special moments that leave an indelible mark on our lives. By writing a page or two in your own words, you are creating a family treasure which will be read and re-read over the years. Perhaps one day family members not even born yet will have insight into you and your life experience.

If you are questioning the value of this effort, please ask yourself the following question: What would you give to possess a letter that was written by your great grandparents in which they spoke of their lives and lessons learned?

The memories of special family vacations, treasured family traditions, falling in love or holding your newborn baby or grandbaby for the very first time — these are just some of the topics that are meaningful to recall and to write down.

Whether you plan on losing weight, getting organized or joining a gym in 2010, also consider celebrating your life by writing about your experiences, lessons

that life has taught you or reminiscing about what you have valued most in your life. Fifty or even 100 years from now, those in your family will be glad that you did. You will not be forgotten as you tell your story in your very own words.

If you would like more information on the subject of preserving your life stories and memories, please check out www.personalhistorians.org. Happy New Year!

Lin M. Joyce, Personal Historian Herndon

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com Deadline is Thursday.

Jewish Program on Business Ethics. The Hazak Active Retirees Chapter of Congregation Beth Emeth in Herndon will present Rabbi Steven Glazer on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1 p.m. Congregation Beth Emeth's Rabbi Steven Glazer will discuss business ethics. The CBE Hazak Chapter presents a uniquely Jewish program on the third Tuesday of each month – September through June – at this same time. Meetings feature prominent speakers and entertainers, providing area Jewish seniors with a time to socialize and learn. The program is free to CBE Hazak members and \$3 for guests. Light refreshments are served. For more information, call 703-860-4515, ext. 127. Congregation Beth Emeth is located at 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, 2.9 miles south of the Dulles Toll Road, Reston Parkway Exit.

Contact Us

For the Herndon Connection, email herndon@connectionnewspapers.com or contact Editor Kemal Kurspahic at Kemal@connectionnewspapers.com, or call 703-778-9414.

Get Involved

The first day of the 2010 General Assembly session is Wednesday, Jan. 13.

The House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees will hold a Regional Public Hearing on Friday, Jan. 8, at 10 a.m., at the Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. The hearing will focus on the Governor's proposed 2010-12 Biennial State Budget and is open to the public.

Fairfax County's delegation to the General Assembly will hold a pre-session public hearing on Saturday, Jan. 9, at 9 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center. Sign up to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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BULLETIN BOARD
To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

The Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force. 7 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, Lake Anne in the Gallery Room. Department of Planning and Zoning will review the current Comprehensive Plan for the Corridor.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

The Town of Herndon's Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee will meet at 7 p.m. at Hoover Conference Room, 765 Lynn Street.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Reston Historic Trust Annual Meeting. 5 p.m. at the Reston

Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. All are welcome to attend and meet the board of directors. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 13

The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) meets are at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 10

The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) meets are at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works improve accessibility for

mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 12

The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) meets are at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 14

The Reston Accessibility Committee (RAC) meets are at 10 a.m. on the second Saturday of every other month, at United Bank, 1801 Reston Parkway, Reston. The RAC works improve accessibility for mobility-impaired persons in Reston. Contact Ken Fredgren, 703-391-9019 or fredgren.k@gmail.com.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Open House on Herndon's FY 2011 Budget

In preparation for the development the Town of Herndon's FY 2011 Budget, the town's management team will host an open house for all citizens to learn more about the costs associated with town services and programs.

"Your Town - Your Budget" will be Thursday, Jan. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn St., in downtown Herndon. Light refreshments will be served.

Directors from the departments of Public Works, Parks & Recreation, Community Development, Finance, Police, Town Attorney, Town Clerk, Public Information, Human Resources, Information Technology and Golf will be on hand to discuss one-on-one with citizens the services provided by their respective departments and associated costs, to include personnel, operations and maintenance, and other relevant expenses.

Town Manager Art Anselene will present a proposed budget to Mayor Stephen DeBenedittis and the Herndon Town Council by April 1. The council must approve a balanced budget by June 30; the town's 2011 fiscal year begins July 1.

For more information, visit the town's Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

FIRST Robotics Hosts Kickoff Event

FIRST Team #116 - Epsilon Delta - will host the 2010 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition kickoff

on Saturday, Jan. 9, at the Herndon High School Lecture Hall, 700 Bennett Road in Herndon.

The videocast event begins at 10 a.m. and ends at approximately 11:30 a.m. Doors open at 9 a.m. with a light breakfast buffet and coffee being served

Herndon Neighborhood College Registration Under Way

Registration for the Herndon Neighborhood College, the Town of Herndon's community leadership program, is currently under way. The eight-week program features hands-on activities that build organizational, problem solving and leadership skills. Participants apply these skills toward strengthening neighborhoods and promoting a strong sense of community.

The 2010 program will be Wednesday evenings, Jan. 20 through March 10, from 6:45-9 p.m. A workshop will also take place on Saturday, Feb. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and attendance at a public hearing of the Herndon Town Council on Tuesday, Feb. 9, beginning at 7 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be provided at the Saturday workshop. All classes except the public hearing will be at the Neighborhood Resource Center, 1086 Elden St. There is no charge to attend the Neighborhood College.

To register for the Herndon Neighborhood College, call the Neighborhood Resources office at 703-435-6830 or download an application at www.herndon-va.gov.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 11

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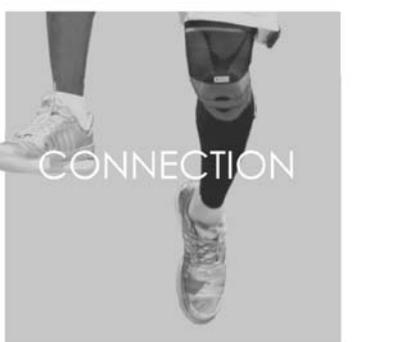
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Fri., Feb. 26 vs. New York Knicks @ 7PM

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Herndon students participating in the Virginia Junior Classical League's annual convention.

Herndon High Latin Students Win State Competition

Herndon High School Latin students competed in Certamen, the Latin quiz bowl. Subjects covered included Latin grammar and derivatives, Roman culture and history, and Greco-Roman mythology. One of Herndon's Latin One teams, consisting of James Beck, Katie Hinders, Margaret Schaaf and Ace Zhang, placed first in the state, surpassing teams from traditionally strong programs in Virginia. This team was supported by Kyle Alger (Latin One), Jorge Bonilla (Latin Three), and Chris Ward (AP Vergil) who played as an upper level team and finished sixth.

More than 1,300 Latin students from the public, private and home schools of Virginia descended on the Greater Richmond Convention Centre for the annual convention of the Virginia Junior Classical League. Thirty-seven students from Herndon High School joined them in academic, artistic, and oratorical contests.

The following HHS Latin students placed in the

top 10 in these contests in the state:

* Kyle Alger, Zach Altschuler, Keith Baldwin, Elizabeth Block, Jorge Bonilla, Aki Bredahl, Brooke Byington, Mbenoye Diagne, Jordyn Dishek, Thomas Gibson, Griffin Harrington, Amanda Harvey, Katie Hinders, Katie Keppel, Michael Lopes, Ashley Reynolds, Maggie Sagan, Margaret Schaaf, Margaret Shaw, Tyler Slate, Mary Sowder, Mary Sternitzke, Shayma Sulaiman, Aaron Wahnish, Devon Woycke, Omar Zaki and Ace Zhang.

* Elizabeth Block, Amanda Harvey, Michael Lopes, Devon Woycke, and Ace Zhang all placed first in contests.

* Jasmine Johnson and Shayma Sulaiman were invited to perform a step routine for the talent show.

Jasmine and Shayma, joined by Aamna Ahmad, Bre Donahue, Alex Brock, Marques Berry, Cameron Copeland, Brady Halleen, Jack Lindmeier, and Rachel Wolfe led the Herndon students to third place in the spirit contest.

Herndon High Robotics Students Raise \$315 for Relay for Life

Herndon High FIRST Robotics Team 116 organized a chili dinner on Wednesday, Dec. 16, at the Herndon United Methodist Church to raise money for Relay for Life. Students and parents prepared 13 batches of chili, salads, noodles, brownies and cookies for the dinner, while the Tortilla Factory donated rice, chips and salsa to the event as well. Each attendee to the dinner paid \$5 at the door for good food and good company, \$315 total, all of which was donated to the robotics' Relay for Life team. Pictured are Jared Hunsaker and Patrick Cullen helping serve food at the chili dinner.



CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Open Mic for Bands Night. 9 p.m. at Jimmy's Tavern, 697 Spring St., Old Town Herndon (on the Corner of Elden and Spring Streets). Bands will receive 30 minutes to play, and must pre-sign with Andre' Love at soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com or 703-984-9114. Walk-ins will only be accepted if time permits. All types of music welcomed. 703-435-5467.

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Interactive storytime. Age 13-23 months with adult. 703-689-2700.

Cooking at College. 10:30 a.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Cooking for the college student on a budget. \$50. Age 18 and up. Register at 703-787-7300 or www.herndon-va.gov/registrationmain.sdi.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

Chicago City Limits. 8 p.m. at The Barns at Wolftrap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Improv comedy. \$22. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Great Backyard Bird Count Program. 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn to identify birds in preparation for The Great Backyard Bird Count in February. 703-242-4020.

The Nicolo Whimsey Show. 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Juggling, clowning and comedy. All ages. 703-689-2700.

Greater Reston Arts Center is presenting three Focus Exhibitions: Currents featuring Joseph Barbaccia's fantastical, sequined sculptures, Unintentional Drawings comprising Craig Kraft's experimental, neon sculptures, and Judy Southerland's mixed media, narrative prints in Borderland. An opening reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The artists will talk about their work at 6:30 p.m.

Chicago City Limits. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns at Wolftrap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Improv comedy. \$22. 703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

Langley High School Choir Concert. 7 p.m. at Cornerstone International Church, 12113 Vale Road, Oakton. 703-264-1273.

Reston Contra Dance. 8 p.m. at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free beginners' workshop 7:15-8, dance 8-10:45. Admission \$8. 703-476-4500.

MONDAY/JAN. 11

Auditions for Metamorphoses, at The Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Play runs March 19-April 10. 703-481-5930.

Ultimate Fighting Championship, with Gray Maynard and Nate Diaz. 6:15 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$43-\$203, at www.ticketmaster.com or at 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or www.patriotcenter.com.

Mother Goose Time. 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Stories, songs and action rhymes. Birth-23 months with adult. 703-437-8855.

Brain Games. 3:30 p.m. Oakton



Patricia Bason, *Secrets*, oil 18 x 24". Oil and Watercolor paintings at Reston Community Center at Hunter Woods, Reston. Paintings on display through the month of January. 2310 Colts Neck Rd. Reston. VA 703-476-4500

Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. After-school drop-in program. Play chess, Blokus, Battleship, Rush Hour and other fun strategy games. Age 6 and up. 703-242-4020.

Easy Reader Book Discussion, Level 2. 3 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Read a book aloud and enjoy a related craft. Call for title. Age 6-7. 703-689-2700.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

Colvin Run Community Center Weekly Dance. 7 p.m. at Colvin Run Schoolhouse, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$10. www.colvinrun.org.

Auditions for Metamorphoses, at The Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Play runs March 19-April 10. 703-481-5930.

Tail Waggin' Tutors. 6:30 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Sign up to read to a well-trained therapy dog. Age 6-10 with adult. 703-437-8855.

Who's Hibernating. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn about animals in winter. Led by a Fairfax County Park naturalist. Age 3-5 with an adult. 703-242-4020.

Money Matters. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Monthly group discussion focuses on personal finance and investing. 703-242-4020.

Special Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

ESL Group Conversation. 11 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Practice your English in a group with a volunteer facilitator. Adults. 703-689-2700.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adults non-native speakers every Wednesday. 703-242-4020.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexandr Solzhenitzyn. Adults. 703-689-2700.

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories

and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-689-2700.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Special Twos. 10:30 a.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Stories and activities. Age 2 with adult. 703-689-2700.

Friends' Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Known World by Edward P. Jones. Adults. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

Open Readings. 7:30 p.m. at Reston's Used Book Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Poetry readings by professional and amateur writers. afoggyword@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration. 1-3 p.m. at the Reston Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Remembering Reston through Oral History interviews. www.lakeanneplaza.com

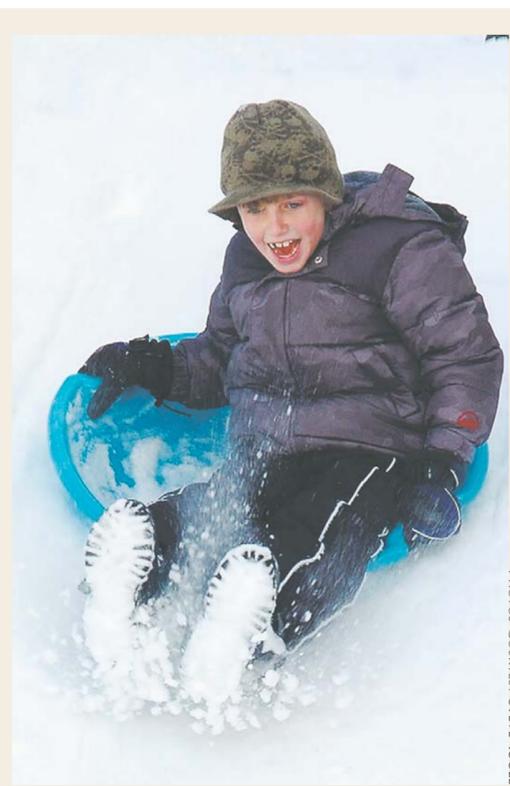
Penguins and Pottery Craft Time. 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Painting a ceramic mug while enjoying stories about penguins. Age 7-12. 703-437-8855.

So You Think You Can Dance Fairfax County Competition for Teens Audition Rounds. 3-5 p.m. All contestants will need to fill out a Team Registration Entry Form prior to the audition, at any teen center or at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec; go to Teen Services. Audition locations are:

- ♦ James Lee Teen Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church.
- ♦ Mott Teen Center, 8100 Braddock Road, Fairfax.
- ♦ Reston Teen Center, 12196 Sunset Hills Drive, Reston.
- ♦ Hideaway Teen Center, South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

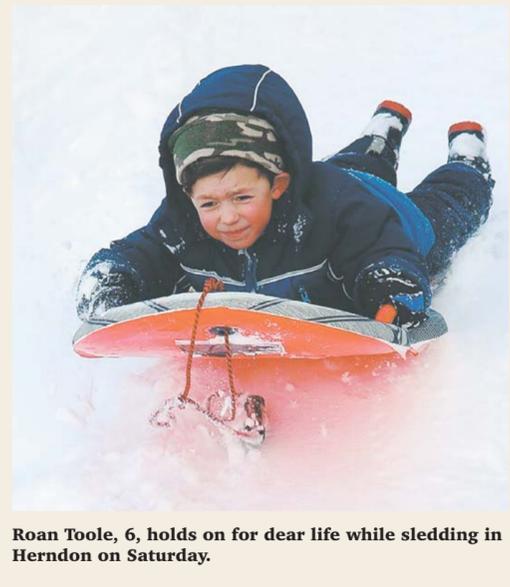
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration. 1-3 p.m. at the Reston Museum & Shop, Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Remembering Reston through oral history interviews. www.lakeanneplaza.com



Collin Toole of Herndon, 7, enjoys a run at Lake Fairfax on Sunday, Dec. 20.

Snow Days

The snowstorm of Dec. 18 and 19 may have presented a hassle for many, but area children got plenty of time to sled and build snowmen, as heavy snows caused winter break to begin early. Fairfax County schools did not open the week following the storm. Here, the Toole children of Herndon make the most of the weather on the Sunday after the storm.



Roan Toole, 6, holds on for dear life while sledding in Herndon on Saturday.

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SPORTS

2009 — High School Sports Year in Review

Langley Boys' lacrosse won state crown; Oakton girls reached state hoops finals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The 2009 high school sports year was one in which numerous teams from the surrounding areas stepped up and put together breakthrough seasons. There were championships, dramatic turnaround campaigns and the magic that takes place when members of a roster come together as one to form a tightly knit unit. The following are a few of those teams that made memories that will last a lifetime.



The Fred Priester-coached Oakton High girls' basketball team won every game up until the state finals last winter.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

BASKETBALL: The Oakton High girls were the champions of the Concorde District and Northern Region championships. Under Fred Priester, the Cougars displayed their talent, grit and heart throughout the winter by going unbeaten in region play in both the regular season and playoffs. In a region tournament semifinals game against Mount Vernon at Robinson Secondary, Oakton overcame an early 21-2 deficit to defeat the Majors, 47-39.

"You have to keep your cool because if one person freaks out [at being so far behind] then it's kind of a team reaction," said Oakton freshmen point guard Caroline Coyer, who scored a season-high 22 points in the victory.

Oakton also came from behind to defeat T.C. Williams, 74-66, in the region championship game after trailing by 11 in the first quarter. Coyer tallied 21 points to garner tourney MVP honors as the Cougars improved to 28-0. Other all-tournament selections for Oakton were senior leaders Erin McGartland and Brianna Johnson. Oakton went on to defeat Atlee (Mechanicsville) and Lake Taylor (Norfolk) in state playoff games before losing in the state finals, 71-61, to Princess Anne at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

South Lakes' girls won the regular season district crown and went 19-4 on the season. The team's best player was point guard Kelcyn Manurs, who earned District Player of the Year honors. The team's coach, Christy Winters Scott, earned District Coach of the Year accolades. The Seahawks were upset by Madison in the district semifinals and fell to a tough South County team at regionals.

BASEBALL: With six starters back from its 2008 team that went 15-8, McLean took the next step forward in 2009 and became

champions of the Liberty District. Behind starting pitching aces Sean Fitzgerald and Denis Buckley, the Highlanders enjoyed a 16-4 season. They captured the regular season district title before going on to win the district tournament as well. The Highlanders trailed defending district champion Stone Bridge, 5-0, in the championship game before rallying for an 11-8 win. A nine-run fourth inning, following a stern pep talk from head coach John Thomas, turned the game around in dramatic fashion. "I've got to credit coach Thomas," said McLean catcher Erik Payne, one of just two seniors on the young roster. "He gave an incredible speech."

At Herndon High, longtime baseball coach Al McCulloch elected to step down following the 2009 spring season. The popular skipper had been at the helm of the program for 17 years. His final game for the 8-11 Herndon ball club came in a first round Concorde District playoff loss to Robinson. During the season, the Herndon baseball diamond was re-named in McCulloch's honor. Under the coach, Herndon captured four district titles and two Northern Region championships, 1995 and 1996. His 2002 team finished 21-3. McCulloch enjoyed coaching his '09 Hornets' team. "We had a good bunch of kids," he said. "They worked hard and we were in every game."

FOOTBALL: Madison High had its ups and downs in the fall of 2009. But in the end, the Warhawks were a pretty good football team and reached the Division 5 Northern Region semifinals before losing to region power Stone Bridge.

Madison had stunned Stone Bridge, 28-14, during a regular season meeting between the Liberty District foes. It was the lone region loss of the season for the Bulldogs, who would go on to capture the Division 5 re-

gion crown and ultimately reach the state AAA finals before losing to Phoebus.

Stone Bridge's district loss to Madison was its first ever in the Liberty District, snapping the Bulldogs' 31-game district win streak. For the Warhawks, the win was a dramatic turnaround for a Madison squad that, the week before, had suffered a deflating 21-14 loss to South Lakes on the weekend in which the Vienna school was celebrating both its homecoming and 50th year anniversary as a school.

The bounce-back win over Stone Bridge propelled Madison toward the playoffs, where the Warhawks defeated an always-tough Edison team before falling to the Bulldogs in the semifinals.

Two Liberty District teams — McLean and South Lakes — put together memorable turnaround football seasons in 2009. Both programs had experienced several years of losing in prior years.

South Lakes began the season 5-1 but faltered over the second half of the season to finish 5-6. Behind star running back Ja'Juan Jones, the Seahawks qualified for the Division 5 region playoffs. The season's highlight game was a 24-21 victory at Madison on the Warhawks' homecoming. For coach John Ellenberger's Seahawks, the five wins were their highest total in several years. "Our kids did a great job this year and were happy to make the playoffs," said the coach.

LACROSSE: The Langley High boys' lacrosse team ran the table with a perfect 10-0 record in the postseason to win its first-ever state championship last spring. The Saxons defeated Madison for the Liberty District crown, Robinson in the Northern Region finals and Chantilly for the state title to finish 21-1 overall.

Alex Devlin's overtime goal was the game-winner in the state championship

game win over the Chargers in the contest played at Westfield High. The senior midfielder's sizzling shot off the right side found the net and started a spontaneous on-field Saxon celebration as Chantilly, the 2008 state champions, looked on in disbelief.

"I love these players and I love this team," said an emotional Earl Brewer, the program's longtime head coach.

SOCCER: The Oakton girls, which had finished under .500 in 2008, became a Northern Region force under first-year head coach Brooke Alexander in the spring of 2009. The Cougars went 14-5 and qualified for the state AAA playoffs. Oakton was at its best during the region playoffs when it won its first two games to set up a semifinals meeting versus West Springfield High. There, in the game played at Robinson, the Cougars won on penalty kicks, the clincher coming on a PK off the foot of senior midfielder Christy Hassell,

a team captain.

Oakton went on to lose a heart breaker to Chantilly, 1-0, in the finals, but the Cougars had still reached vast heights by qualifying for states.

VOLLEYBALL: Behind standout players Elysse Richardson and Kathryn Caine, the Langley girls reached the state playoffs for the second time in three years this past fall. The Saxons lost in the Liberty District finals to Stone Bridge but came back strong with Northern Region playoff wins over West Springfield, Hayfield and Robinson to reach the finals, where they lost to South County. Langley's outstanding season ended with a setback to Loudoun Valley at states. The upset region semis win over Robinson was perhaps the highlight of the season for the Saxons. "We just played so well against them," said Langley coach Susan Shifflett. "We had to play one of our best matches to beat them."

OTHER GREAT TEAMS OF 2009: The underdog Langley girls' field hockey team which, as a No. 6 seed at the Liberty District tournament, upset No. 3 Marshall and No. 2 Madison to reach the finals where it gave top seed Fairfax all it could handle in a 1-0 loss. ... The Oakton boys' cross country team, under coach Phil Tiller, won its fifth straight Concorde District crown. Led by standout runner Andrew McCullen, the Cougars went on to successfully defend its region title as well. ... South Lakes' outdoor track and field team won the Liberty District and region crowns last spring. Vincent Brown led the way at regionals with three first place finishes. ... Langley's wrestling team, under coach John Belyea, captured its ninth straight district title last February. Three Saxons — David Helmer, Jay Ives and Anthony Kotoriy — won district crowns.

Can't Handel It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine the confession I'm about to make likely will get me banned from future similar cultural events (good!). But, since I'm sitting here (here being the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.) semi-listening to their Choir & Baroque Orchestra, I have to do something, even if some might consider writing on the very program describing the music, musicians, conductor and author to which I'm listening (I didn't say subjected; after all, it was with my consent that I agreed to this outing) a defamation of my character (or lack thereof) and a defacing of sacred text. Nevertheless, as Popeye the Sailor Man said so famously, "I'yam what I'yam." And what I am not, as has been proven by this musical interlude is, a fan of George Frederick Handel's Messiah, (God forgive me) "arguably the most widely shared musical experience in our culture. Each year the oratorio is sung by tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people." And it is "mid nave" that I find myself not so enthralled on Sunday, Dec. 6.

And though the National Cathedral is an elegant and magnificent environment for this most traditional of presentations, I am not sure if my eyes and ears can truly appreciate its suitability. However, as I am writing (and then pausing and thinking about what to write next) I have to admit, the music and words (many of which I can't actually discern) do provide a soothing backdrop, conducive almost, to this creative process. I don't imagine, though, that the cognoscente of this music appreciate it for its inoffensive/barely noticeable/backdrop-type white noise as I do.

I mean, the Cathedral is nearly full, at \$54 a ticket - not exactly a cheap thrill (and in a challenging, shall we say, economy to boot). Apparently, these many listeners put their money where their ears are. It's only people/non-patrons of the arts like me who don't know any better and can't process the melodies sufficiently to find joy in "them thar" notes and we're nearly two-thirds ("Part The Second") through this holiday tradition. (The extremely famous "Hallelujah!" chorus is close, I'm told.)

Let me be clear, none of this commentary has anything at all to do with the amazingly talented musicians, soloists, conductors and choir performing this evening. Nor is it a reflection of the courteous and patient staff ushering (voluntarily no doubt) the hundreds of ticket-holding Handel enthusiasts to their assigned seats. It's more about an experience I have now shared with many before me, and heard much about, that I officially "don't get." I wouldn't say attending this event was worth the money we spent (like The Allman Brothers concert I saw in October was) but in an odd way, I do feel better having experienced it.

Would I go back? No. Do I regret having gone? No. Am I planning my next cultural soiree? Absolutely not! For me, enjoying such fare is an "achored" taste. A taste which I have not yet acquired. (I did find a great parking space on Wisconsin Ave. directly across from the Cathedral, though.)

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

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2010: What to Look For?

FROM PAGE 3

this fiscal year, the town is again looking at a decrease in revenue for fiscal year 2011, which begins in July.

In 2009, the town faced a projected decrease of 27 percent in residential real estate values and raised the real estate tax rate from 24 cents to 26 cents per \$100 of assessed value, resulting in a reduction in most residents' tax bills. Other sources of revenue, such as taxes on meals, sales and telecommunications, also dropped off. The town did not fill a number of vacant positions, froze pay and reduced benefits for employees, reduced hours at some town facilities, scaled back on some services like trash pickup on holidays, deferred vehicle and equipment replacement and made other cuts for this fiscal year.

Tax revenue is projected to be down by about another 10 percent for the 2010-11 fiscal year, and the town manager has been asked to come up with a list of "non-essential" town services that could be cut.

Residents are invited to an informational open house on the town budget on Jan. 14, and public hearings on the budget will be held in February. The budget will be finalized in March.

Transit-Oriented Development in the Works

A task force appointed by Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) to examine proposals for development around the planned Route 28 Metro station wrapped up its work in December, and the Planning Commission will review the group's recommendations early this year.

In 2008, three development proposals were submitted for the area north of the planned Metro station, between the town of Herndon and Route 28, straddling the county line. As proposed, the developments together would result in almost 3,300 dwelling units, 4.7 million square feet of office space, 850,000 square feet of retail and 600,000 square feet of hotel space. The citizen group only made recommendations regarding the 48 acres inside Fairfax County, as that is all that the county has control over, but about 70 acres of the proposed Dulles World Center would lie in Loudoun County.

The result of the task force's work was in line with what was requested by the state-chartered Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), which owns the land closest to where the station is to be built, but did not grant all the density requested for areas further out. The level of development is to hinge on transportation improvements like road construction and transit options, as well as a host of other criteria for streetscape features, parks, parking, street-level retail, well-integrated design and others. Countless recommendations were made regarding the character of the proposed developments, which together are to comprise a compact, mixed-use community with a focus on mass transit and pedestrian-friend-

liness.

The task force also recommended that an interjurisdictional team consisting of representatives from Fairfax County, Loudoun County and the Town of Herndon cooperate to prioritize and fund road improvements around the developments, monitor traffic and meet other goals. Leaders from the three jurisdictions met in August, and their staffers had already been working together on the project for some time.

The task force's recommendations could gain final approval this year, although they may first be altered by county officials.

Area Begins Paying for Metro

Tolls on the Dulles Toll Road will begin to rise this year, and a special commercial tax district, approved by the county Board of Supervisors in December, will go into effect. Both are to help cover the cost of construction of Metrorail to Dulles Airport and beyond.

Tolls from the toll road, which the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) took over from the state in October, are to cover more than half of the \$5.25 billion cost of building the rail. This year, tolls at both the main-line toll plaza and the on- and off-ramps will rise by 25 cents. The toll for getting on and off the road is then to hold steady through 2012, while the toll at the main plaza is to continue to rise by 25 cents per year for a 2012 toll of \$1.50 per two-axle vehicle. As payments on the debt that MWAA has incurred to build the rail continue to increase through 2042, tolls will continue to rise, but the airports authority has not determined what the rates will be beyond three years from now. The debt is to be paid off in 2053, at which point MWAA would turn the road back over to the state.

The special tax district to help fund Phase II of rail construction, from Wiehle Avenue west, runs along the toll road from Wiehle Avenue to the Loudoun County border and will help Fairfax County pay off its agreed-upon 16.1 percent share of rail funding. The tax applies only to commercial properties.

The tax rate for this year is to be 5 cents per \$100 of assessed value, which will climb by 5 cents per year until 2013, when it will plateau at 20 cents. The total money to be raised by the tax district is capped at \$330 million, and the district can be left in place no longer than 50 years after its creation or 40 years after the first levy of its ultimate tax rate, whichever comes first.

In order for the district to be approved, the ownership of more than half of its \$8.6 billion assessed value had to sign onto a petition calling for self-taxation. MWAA had said that without the tax district, it would build the rail without the three stops planned for Reston Parkway, the Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride, and just east of Route 28. A similar tax district is helping to fund Phase I of construction, which will run to Wiehle Avenue and is now underway.

Phase II is expected to be operational by 2016.

Sharing the Christmas with Wounded Soldiers

Jackie and Jeff Johnson of JJDeli in Herndon celebrated Christmas by visiting Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They provided a barbecue lunch and brought all of the donated items they collected during the giving season for the wounded soldiers, families and staff.

The Johnsons visited the Soldier Family Assistance Center, where they set up the lunch provided for all. They met many of the soldiers and their families, as well as the staff helping them.



WEEK IN HERNDON

FROM PAGE 5

va.gov, link off of "Featured this Month" on the homepage.

Martin Luther King Holiday Schedule

Town of Herndon government offices and services will be impacted by the Martin Luther King holiday, Monday, Jan. 18 as follows:

- ❖ Town Offices - Closed
- ❖ Refuse Collection - Refuse normally collected on Monday will be collected Tuesday, Jan. 19.
- ❖ Herndon Community Center - Open 6 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
- ❖ Herndon Centennial Golf Course - Open 8 a.m.-dark (weather permitting).

'Dress Up Herndon' Winners Announced

The Town of Herndon's Cultivating Community Initiative (CCI) committee was joined by guest judges Mayor Steve DeBenedittis and Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson for the fourth annual "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" Neighborhood Decoration Contest, sponsored by the CCI. The judging panel circulated throughout town on the evening of Dec. 14 to visit nominated homes and to award first-place winners in seven categories: Classical, Traditional, Colorful, Lights, Townhouse, Childhood Memories and Neighborhood Spirit.

"Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" winning homes are as follows:

- ❖ Colorful - 1375 Dominion Ridge Lane. A riot of color lights up this hillside home.
- ❖ Traditional - 823 Spring Knoll Drive. Elegant greens, reds and whites, illuminated by floodlights.
- ❖ Classical - 1020 Tyler St. "This house looks just like a Christmas card," one judge said.
- ❖ Childhood Memories - 1336 Summerfield Drive. Snoopy goes commercial - again - in this tribute to "A Charlie Brown's Christmas."
- ❖ Townhouse - 530 Early Fall Court. A lot of lights in a small space result in a festive explosion of holiday spirit.

❖ Lights - 508 Hunt Way Lane. Reds, whites, golds - Santa can't miss this house when making his rounds.

❖ Neighborhood Spirit - Homes on Spring/Nash/Bowers Lane. Once again this year, these neighbors demonstrate what the holiday season is all about.

Winning homeowners were presented with a festive sign, suitable for display, and will be formally recognized by the Mayor and Herndon Town Council at the Jan. 12, public hearing.

For more information, visit the town's Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

Program for Children at Frying Pan Farm Park

Bring children ages 2-4 down to the farm on Mondays, Jan. 11 and 25, from 9:45-10:30 a.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park. They will enjoy a farm story, activity, crafts and games. The cost is \$6 per child when accompanied by an adult. Call 703-437-9101 for more information and reservations.

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon.

Committee for Dulles Hosts Annual Meeting

On Thursday, Jan. 21, the Committee for Dulles will host its 2010 Annual Meeting and welcome as its guest James A. Wilding, the former president and CEO of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Wilding will share his thoughts on aviation today and in its future challenges and opportunities. The committee also will install its 2010 officers and members of the board of directors.

Place and Time: Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Reception at 11:30 a.m., lunch served at 12 p.m.

Reservations required by the Monday prior to the luncheon

Nonmembers: payment in advance, \$55; payment at the door: \$60.

CFD Members: payment in advance, \$45; payment at the door: \$50. www.committeefordulles.org.

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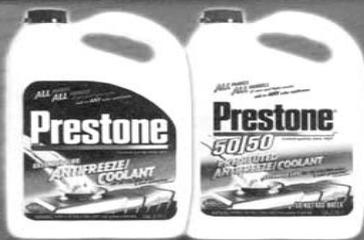
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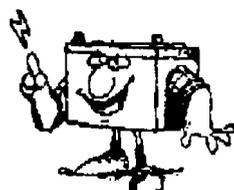
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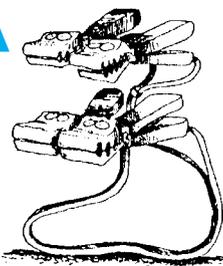


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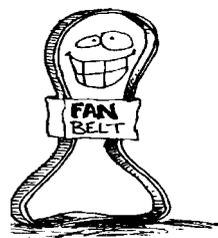
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