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John McCrone tries to give Ethan Hanover, 9, a scare during the Bradley Farm Haunted House last year. This year the haunted house has a carnival theme.

# A Haunting In Herndon

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PHOTO BY GREG DAILY PHOTOGRAPHY

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## FAITH

# Reaching Out to Africa, Haiti

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church celebrates 144 years of community and world impact.

BY SHIRLEY A. SPANN  
FOR THE CONNECTION

For one local church, 144 years give its members much to celebrate.

Sunday, Sept. 26, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Herndon celebrated its 144th Anniversary. The church started in 1866 shortly after the Civil War in the Old Floris School on Frying Pan Road in Herndon, providing a place for newly freed slaves to worship. Since those early years, the church has moved several times and has grown from a few members to over 3,000 and continues to play a vital role in the community and around the world.

"We've watched how God has brought us from the past, and we have exciting anticipation of how He will move us into the future," said Rev. Dr. James Graham, Jr.

who became pastor of the church in April 1995.

Rev. William L. Hill, led the congregation from 1914 to 1964, the longest tenure of all the pastors who have dedicated themselves to providing for both spiritual and physical needs of its members and community.

IN DECEMBER 2006, the church was recognized by the

**"Our focus will continue to be for our community and helping others throughout the world."**

— Rev. Dr. James Graham, Jr.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who presented the church with a Resolution, citing, "the church is a pillar in the faith communities of Herndon, Fairfax County, and the world, and is

among the historic African-American churches in Fairfax County."

The church has established various ministries for its members and community, including the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Christian Academy (K3 to Grade 4), a Bible Institute, and numerous other ministries for senior citizens, adults, and youths.

"Our focus will continue to be for our community and helping others throughout the world," said Graham, who stresses helping to save lives and make life better for those in need as the gospel is preached.

In its African Water Project initiative, the church has dug eighteen water wells in several African countries, bringing fresh clean water to residents to help save lives.

The anniversary also marked the kick-off of the church's third phase



PHOTO BY SHELDON ELLIS

Rev. Dr. James Graham, Jr. has been the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church pastor since 1995.

of its outreach to Port au Prince, Haiti, which was struck by a 7.0 magnitude earthquake on Jan. 12, 2010. The church responded immediately to the crisis and later members visited the region on three occasions to provide humanitarian aid, assist in clinics, provide hope through the gospel, and encourage grieving pastors and ministers who lost whole congregations and many family members.

IN JUNE, the church hosted a forum, "Haiti: Let's Not Forget" with Haiti Ambassador to the US Raymond Joseph, appearing with

other panelists to discuss Haiti's current situation with hopes that others not forget the struggling nation.

"I think it's absolutely remarkable to have a church that focuses on missions and to do it with excellence.

This is a tremendous way to honor our ancestors, glorify our present, and prepare for the future" said Dr. Walter Mack of Union Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., who was one of the guest speakers for the celebration, which was commemorated with preaching, singing, fellowshiping, and thanksgiving.

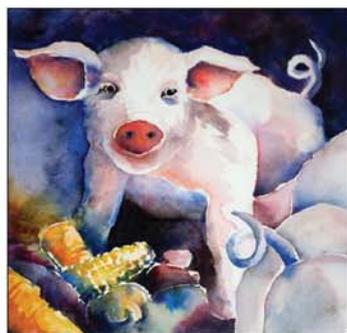
## Celebrate Art

Take a free journey through Great Falls, VA, at the 7th Annual Great Falls Studios Tour, Oct. 16 & 17, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Meet 48 artists where they create. Drive back roads of Great Falls to explore studios in barns, rustic houses, historic outbuildings, contemporary homes and other unique settings. See art demos. Buy art. This is a family-friendly event. Download a Tour map today at [www.GreatFallsStudios.com](http://www.GreatFallsStudios.com). You can also register on our website to win one of forty \$50 gift certificates!



Quilts



Paintings



Photography



Sculpture



Jewelry





PHOTO BY DONALD ROSENBERGER

A ghoulish figure waits for an unsuspecting victim at the Bradley Farm Haunted House.

## A Haunting in Herndon

**Haunted House benefits local Herndon and Reston charity.**

BY ALEX McVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

During the summer, the Bradley Farm barn serves as a poolhouse for the community pool. But just after Labor Day, it starts to transform. By the middle of October, it's no longer a poolhouse. Last year it was a haunted library. This year it's a haunted carnival. But for the last four years, the haunted house has also been raising funds for the Herndon and Reston chapter of FISH, Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help.

FISH is a local nonprofit dedicated to helping those in need of financial assistance, transportation, furniture and other short-term needs. Last year the Bradley Farm Haunted House raised more than \$2,500 for FISH.

"We wanted to find a local charity, to give back to the Herndon and Reston community, to keep it local," said Lisa Kelly, who, along with neighbor Sarah Bermingham, is responsible for most of the designs of the house.

Marcia Di Trapani, a volunteer and past president of FISH, says she is pleased to have such a good



PHOTO BY DONALD ROSENBERGER

A visitor gets a fright while walking through the Bradley Farm Haunted House.

relationship with the haunted house.

"The money they raise is very helpful for our program, they get such a big turnout and FISH reaps the benefits," Di Trapani said. "They're so organized and have such a great community response, they really know what they're doing."

**KELLY AND BERMINGHAM** start their planning just after New Year's every year, coming up with the year's theme and figuring out the design of the house. Until the pool closes for the year, they can't do much in terms of actual construction, but it doesn't stop their imaginations from going wild.

"We choose the theme, and we design the rooms to safely accommodate the people that will be coming through," Bermingham said. "Every year the route people take is different, we build the rooms from scratch."

Their husbands do most of the actual construction, but Kelly and Bermingham design most of the costumes and props themselves. They scour thrift shops, take classes on clothing design and whatever else is needed to put on a good show.

"We like it to be scary, but not gory, not gross-out scary," Kelly said. "When we started, we just had people walk through and that

SEE FALL FUN, PAGE 18

### VIEWPOINTS

#### What is your favorite way to have fun in Herndon?



**Terri Gilbert**, homemaker  
"I'm a big fan of the Great Harvest Bread Company. They have a great rotation of different breads, scones and cookies, and they always offer free samples. I also love their collection of freeze-dried soups, it makes it easy to build a meal."



**Pam Coulter**, artist  
"I like to go to ArtSpace, to be around artists and go to shows. I think it's a great addition to the community, it has provided consistently good art shows, community projects and musical performances."



**Paul St. Clair**, barber  
"I've lived here 45 years, and I love everything about the town. I love the places downtown and I like the way the whole town is run. There's a little bit of everything here, I would recommend trying all the places."



**Elena Mero**, executive assistant  
"I love Jimmy's Old Town Tavern. It's always fun, the nachos, or Jimchos, are awesome. It's got a great atmosphere, I think it's the best bar in Northern Virginia."



**Jeff Tincher**, firefighter  
"I just like being around the people here. It's the only firehouse I've worked at where people just come by and say hello, and whenever there's been a particularly big fire, our tables will be filled with food and desserts from people."



**Nancy Julia**, retired P.E. teacher  
"The bike trail is great. It's a nice place to meet, there's good parking and restaurants nearby. Our cycling group is made up of Special Olympics athletes and their families and friends. We like riding from the Herndon area, as the trail is a bit less crowded and safer for our athletes as they hone their skills."

—ALEX McVEIGH

## WEEK IN HERNDON



### HHS NJROTC Competes in Academic Meet

The Herndon High School Navy Junior ROTC competed in the Huntingtown Athletic and Academic Meet held at Huntingtown, Md., on Saturday, Sept. 18. This was the first competition of the year for the unit. The Herndon unit had third place finishes in the Australian Trolley and the 8x200 relay. The team had strong individual performances from several cadets. Dominic LeShock earned a first place finish among all team competitors in the academic competition. Cadets Brianna Lowry and Edwin Barahona earned first place finishes in female and male pushup competitions. Cadets Kyle Bentley and Amira Juma were selected team MVPs for the event.

### Herndon Police Make Arrest in Robberies on W&OD Trail

On Sept. 23, Herndon Police detectives arrested a 20-year-old male of Herndon for a Sept. 22 robbery and Sept. 23 attempted robbery, both of which occurred on the WO&D Trail near Van Buren Street.

During the investigation, detectives learned that the arrested man may have attempted additional robberies on the WO&D Trail near Ferndale Avenue. These incidents, which allegedly occurred the evening of Sept. 22, were not reported to police.

Anyone with additional information or who witnessed these events is asked to contact Sergeant James Moore at 703-435-6843 or via email at [james.moore@herndon-va.gov](mailto:james.moore@herndon-va.gov).

### Herndon to Mark Public Safety Day

This year's Herndon Public Safety Day will take place Saturday, Oct. 16th, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Herndon Town Square (by the old train station), 730 Elden St. Exhibitors this year, all speaking to various aspects of safety, include the Herndon Police Motorcycle Squad, also child safety seat check/installation and children's fingerprinting, and trick or treating. Also in attendance will be the Herndon Police Citizens' Support Team, the Virginia State and Fairfax County Police, U.S. Postal Inspector Service, Windows Plus, the Community Emergency Response Team, Nova Armament, Nationwide Insurance, the Kyo-Sho Ryu Karate Jitsu school, Virginia ABC, MADD, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

### Halloween Themed Hayride at Frying Pan Farm Park

Come out to Frying Pan Farm Park to enjoy a "hardly" haunted hayride this Halloween season. Rides will be offered on Oct. 21, 22, 26, 27, 28 and 29. The 30-minute rides start at 5:30, 6 and 7 p.m., and the cost is \$5 per person. Enjoy a treat afterward. The fun you'll have at the farm is down right scary. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) or call 703-222-4664. For more information, call the park at 703-437-9101.

Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Rd. in Herndon. Find more Halloween programs online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks). For more information, call the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

## FALL FUN



Gracia Bryan is drawing an earth on the side of Herndon ES.



Students displayed their ideas of peace last Friday at Herndon Elementary.

## Colors of Peace

On Friday, Oct. 1st, the Herndon SACC Center transformed the entrance to Herndon Elementary School into a chalk art display. Participating in Chalk4Peace, the students created large and small art works out of chalk to represent their ideas of peace.

PHOTOS BY  
DEB COBB  
THE CONNECTION



Claudia Erazo and Brandy Gonzales work on 'Peace, Love, Hope.'



Rachel Fast (middle), Camryn and Mackenzie Koch (not pictured) designed this art piece. Behind Rachel are some of the students who participated in the activity (from left): Shannon Fowler, Ethan Empfield, Caroline Potter, Jessica Hermus, Kyleigh Eversole, Gracia Bryan, Samantha Fast, and William King.

# BULLETIN BOARD

## SCHOOL NOTES

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 7

**Herndon Farmer's Market.** Every Thursday, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Herndon Center, 460 Elden St., Herndon. Producer-only locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, and local foods from bread and cheese to salsa and sausage. [smartmarkets.org](http://smartmarkets.org).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 9

**Aging in Community Forum.** 1 p.m. Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods. Speakers and breakout sessions will highlight how citizens can retire gracefully and comfortably in their community. Free. Registration required at [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com).

**Conquering Procrastination.** 10 a.m. Hunter Mill District Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Why we procrastinate and how real people have overcome it. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

### TUESDAY/OCT. 12

**Match Your Head to Your Heart.** 7 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Identify your strengths, consider your interests and choose an industry. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

**Delegate Jim LeMunyon's Oktoberfest Celebration.** 6-8:30 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park Auditorium, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. \$25, ages 12 and under free. [Northernvirginiagop.com](http://Northernvirginiagop.com).

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 13

**Moms Club of Reston.** 10 a.m. at the Hunter's Woods Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. An international non-profit organization providing support for mothers. Playgroups, babysitting co-op, regular monthly activities and events, moms' night out and more. [momsclubofreston@yahoo.com](mailto:momsclubofreston@yahoo.com).

**Frying Pan Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Freshly picked fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, eggs, baked goods, honey and more. Every Wednesday through Oct. 703-642-0128.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 14

**Lupus Support Group.** 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. [lh@ascendcomm.com](mailto:lh@ascendcomm.com) or [www.lupusgw.org](http://www.lupusgw.org).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 17

**Young Adult Financial Fair.** 1 p.m. at South Lakes H.S. 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston. Personal finance education for age 16 and up. Free. [www.financialitnova.org](http://www.financialitnova.org) or 703-273-8829.

### MONDAY/OCT. 18

**Assistance League of Northern Virginia.** 9:30 a.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. A nonprofit, volunteer organization promoting literacy and well-being for women and children through community based programs, such as Operation School Bell: New Clothes for Kids and Weekend Food for Kids. Meetings are the third Monday of every month. 703-878-1928.

**Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10)** presented Congressional Awards — the highest award presented to youth by Congress — to the following local students in recognition of their community service projects:

\* Kelsie Mietla of Herndon, Congressional Award Gold Medal, University of Virginia;

\* Lea Mulder of McLean, Congressional Award Bronze Medal, Langley High School;

\* Andy Crump of Herndon, Congressional Award Bronze Medal, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology;

\* Michael Wallace of Purcellville, Va., Congressional Award Bronze Medal, Loudoun Valley High School;

\* Jane Willner of McLean, Congressional Award Silver Medal, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

To earn the Congressional Award, young people must set and achieve goals in the four program areas: voluntary public service, personal development, physical fitness and expedition/exploration. The only other medal awarded by the United States Congress is the Medal of Honor.

**Sarah Freeman, Ian Gildea, and Hannah Glass** of Herndon High School; **Kristin Gavin and Summer Perez** of Oakton High School and **Christine Comer** of South Lakes High School (alternate) have been selected among the thirty-nine students from 14 Fairfax County public schools to perform in the 2010 Virginia Honors Choir. They will perform at the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA) convention Nov. 20 in Norfolk.

**Oak Hill Elementary School** is one of nine schools nationwide—and the only school in Virginia—chosen to participate in the American Heart Association's (AHA) Teaching Garden program, an initiative designed by environmental and health activist Kelly Meyer, which will teach elementary and middle school students the importance of healthy eating and physical activity.

**Valerie Pratt** of Oak Hill has been appointed to the rank of first lieutenant and will perform as Plans Officer within the Air Force JROTC at Randolph-Macon Academy. The senior is the daughter of Jennifer and Douglas Pratt of Oak Hill.

**Kaitlin A. Schaal** of Herndon High School has been named as a Semifinalist in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program.

**Nicholas Jacobs**, a senior at the University of Mary Washington, was selected as a first place winner in the "Best Undergraduate Class Paper" category of the 2010 Pi Sigma Alpha honor society essay competition for his work "Professional Reputation: Why the First Year of the American Presidency is Overstated." The essay was also a winner in the natural and social sciences category of UMW's 19th Annual Student Writing Contest. He is the son of Jake and Nancy Jacobs of Herndon, and a 2007 graduate of Herndon High School.

Herndon residents **Arjun Singh, Joseph Williams, Eموke Toth** and **Steven Apsley** have finished the new cadet training week with the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. The corps first year starts in August with new cadet week held the week prior to the start of classes. During new cadet week, incoming students undergo a series of challenges that build character and leadership skills.



PHOTO BY LISA HAMILTON

## Enjoying Recess at Clearview

**Clearview Elementary fourth grader, Dolly Berens, enjoying recess during the first month of school.**

**STOPPING the FLU STARTS with YOU!**

Medical experts agree that the best way to protect against the flu is with a flu shot. Inova Health System can help you and your loved ones get the protection you need as part of your yearly wellness routine.

The flu shot can't give you the flu. But, by not getting the flu shot, you might pass the flu on to someone else. The flu vaccine is safe, quick and easy to find at Inova clinics throughout Northern Virginia. Our highly trained nurses can help protect you from

the flu with either a shot or the nasal spray vaccine FluMist®.\* And, we can vaccinate children as young as 6 months.\*\*

For more information about immunizations and other flu-related services offered by Inova, call **703-750-8818** or visit [inova.org/flu](http://inova.org/flu).

**Get the vaccine. Not the flu.**



\* Offered only at hospital clinics.

\*\* Children ages 6 months to 4 years receive vaccinations at our hospital clinics only.



# OPINION

## Fall Fun

This week's edition of the Connection includes a serendipitous look at ideas for Fall Fun, including upcoming events, some favorites of longtime residents and ideas for activities ranging from outdoor hikes to artistic endeavors to local theater and high school sports.

We know we've missed many reader favorites; please drop us a line and let us know about your favorite fall and holiday activities.

On Nov. 17, we'll publish our annual Holiday Gift and Entertainment Guide. We invite suggestions from readers, organizations, churches, synagogues, nonprofits and more.

### More Fun, Vote Early and ... Well, at Least Vote

One fun activity we don't want you to miss is greeting your neighbors at your polling place on Nov. 2. Or make an outing of it and go with friends or family to vote early (absentee) on a more convenient day.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Herndon's Disregard for Disabled Citizens

To the Editor:

I write to you to bring attention to an issue in Herndon that is impacting disabled community members.

From our building at the corner of Center and Station streets we help local people who are disabled. My clients come from all walks of life. The Federal and State Governments have determined that many of the people I help are unable to perform any kind of work. Some of them have been injured at work, others are victims of dog attacks, dangerous buildings, car, truck and bicycle crashes. The people my staff and I help are permanently disabled by accident, illness or disease. I have clients who use wheelchairs, walkers, crutches and canes, and who require assistance because of brain injuries.

The property we purchased in 1999 had its own parking lot. The Town required us to landscape over it. The Town required that we buy into the "Shared Parking Program," paying \$30,547 for 11 spaces that we do not use. We also pay the town \$858 a year for maintenance of these spaces. The Town taxes us (via the BPOL) at the highest rate of all town businesses. The Town insisted we change the physical address after 100 years as "865 Station Street" to "797 Cen-

ter Street" and we had to wrap our walkway around to the new street front. We hired an architect, landscape company, and made a lovely approach and eliminated steps so that our handicapped visitors could easily enter the Victorian house.

There is some two-hour parking on the street flanking our property, but we lost several spaces when the town approved a project behind us. The Town has not placed a handicapped parking sign anywhere near the property.

Now the town plans to remove the three spaces in front of my building in order to choke traffic in front of my property, leaving my disabled clients with no safe and convenient approach to my building. Many of my clients cannot walk the distance from the municipal lot to our property. We do not want our clients parking in front of the residences on Stations Street, in front of our wonderful neighbors' and friends' homes. And parking in front of Total Auto Body, Nationwide or the junkyard

are not safe options, especially as some clients are here for several hours for Social Security interviews, depositions and mediations with retired judges from the Fairfax Circuit Court. Needless to say, all of these activities bring in customers to other Herndon businesses. And, the improvements we have made to the property make for an appropriate transition from the downtown business area to the residential neighborhood. The Town's intent to remove safe parking for disabled people makes no sense. We ask that the town not remove these three remaining spaces, that a disabled space be appropriated in front of, or next to our building, and that the town purchase space for municipal parking convenient to the businesses at our end of the historic, commercial zone.

**Doug Landau**  
Abrams Landau Ltd.  
Herndon

This law firm specializes in personal injury and workers compensation.

Forms\_Publications/Index.html

Fill it out and mail or fax it to your local elections office. You can also register in person at the elections office during business hours, or pick up a form in a library or other public places.

To find your polling place, go to [www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov) and click on "voter information." Polling places will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day. Check with your local elections office for information on absentee and early voting. Absentee ballots and in-person early voting are available now.

#### IN FAIRFAX COUNTY:

Fairfax County Office of Elections  
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Fairfax, VA 22035-0081  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/>  
703-222-0776 phone  
703-324-2205 fax  
703-324-4700 for 24-hour recorded information

#### MILITARY NOTES

Send information to [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday. Photos/artwork welcome.

**David T. Lewis**, son of Samuel R. Lewis of Oak Hill, graduated from the Army ROTC Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

Air Force Airman **John C. Marsden** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Elizabeth Heath of Armada St., Herndon, and grandson of Michael Marsden Sr. of Rachel Lane, Vienna. Marsden is a 2009 graduate of Oakton High School.

Marine Corps Pvt. **Boris I. Calderon-Velasquez**, son of Ethel Velasquez and Alex A. Calderon, both of Reston, recently completed 12 weeks of basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Phillip S. Russell** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Russell is a 2003 graduate of Herndon High School.

PFC **Sean Jeffries** of Reston has completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C. Jeffries successfully completed 12 weeks of training.

After graduation from Parris Island, he will be at Camp Pendleton, Calif. for nine weeks of combat training. The 2007 Herndon High School graduate is the son of Alan and Leslie Jeffries.

Navy Seaman **Jose V. Lainez** of Reston recently completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

During the eight-week program, he studied classroom and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival. Lainez is the son of Silvia A. and Cesar M. Lainez.

### Write

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

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.

By e-mail: [herndon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewspapers.com)

## THE CONNECTION

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# NEWS

## Hyatt Dulles Opens Executive Meeting Center

Hyatt Dulles opened its new Executive Meeting Center (EMC) in Herndon on Sept. 7 with 18,000 square feet of meeting space and 11,000 square feet of pre-function space.

As the first Hyatt to receive membership in the International Association of Conference Centers, the EMC comprises two ballrooms, which can be transformed into 18 possible room configurations, and four boardrooms. The center also provides a private dining area for guests, a complimentary full-service business center, swimming pool, and fitness center.

"These features allow attendees to perform at the highest level making for a more productive event," said Michael Session, general manager, Hyatt Dulles. "Hyatt Dulles is committed to being on the forefront of healthy living or environmentally friendly living, and the EMC brings us one big step closer to that promise."

Taking advantage of the latest technology, Hyatt Dulles has placed the most advanced LCD projectors, screens, lights, and



The new entrance to the Hyatt Dulles Executive Meeting Center.

audiovisual equipment throughout the Executive Meeting Center to enhance and accommodate all meetings and events. The center also boasts "touch enabled signage" within each meeting space. These touch screens allow attendees to obtain directions to

their next destination, airport arrivals and departures, weather and area attractions.

For more details on amenities or to plan an event please visit <http://www.hyattdulles.com/executive-meeting-center> or call 703-713-1234.

CONTRIBUTED

## Tired of your daily commute to work?

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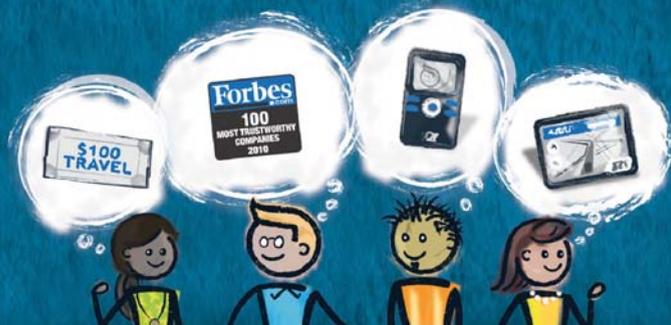
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Sandra Hughes and Christine Young, both of Reston, sitting with pal Scout, enjoy jazz music at the Lake Anne Plaza.



Penny Rasnake and Susan Cawthra, both of Reston, volunteer for the event.

## Is Your Child's Center A Parent University School? We Are!...

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## Jazz, Blues at Lake Anne Plaza

**S**mooth tunes could be heard from all ends of the Lake Ann Plaza on Saturday, Oct. 2, from the 4th Annual Jazz and Blues Festival. Jazz and blues artists performed throughout the day. Some headliners included: Sam Gunderson, Mykle Lyons Quartet, and Will Rast and Funk Ark.

In addition to the music, there was food, arts and crafts for sale, and beer and wine tasting. There was also an auction.

Local restaurants supplied delicious food to enjoy.

Sponsors for this event include: Lake Ann Merchants, Reston Community Center, and the Greater Reston Arts Center or GRACE. To see what else is happening at Lake Ann Plaza, see <http://www.lakeanneplaza.com/>.

—STEPHANIE KNAPP

PHOTOS BY  
STEPHANIE KNAPP  
THE CONNECTION



Lily Bee and Felipe Constanza performing jazz at the festival.

# Center for the Arts Celebrates 20th Fall Season

BY NICK BOTERO  
THE CONNECTION

George Mason's Center for the Arts is celebrating its 20th fall season by bringing back the best performances of the last few years as well as new and emerging artists.

"To celebrate our 20th anniversary, we have invited back some of our favorite and most popular artists from previous seasons, as well as an exciting host of gifted performers who appear on our stage for the first time, as we continue to bring to Fairfax the

best of the performing arts," said Thomas Reynolds, the director of artistic programming, marketing and audience services for the Center of the Arts.

Jill Laiacona, the public and media relations manager at the Center for the Arts for the past three years, is upbeat about the upcoming season. "It's a successful season for us, especially in terms of audience. I feel the people in the NOVA area will embrace a lot of the acts we have. Our performances are comparable to anything in D.C., they're affordable and accessible too," she said.

Several renowned artists and ensembles

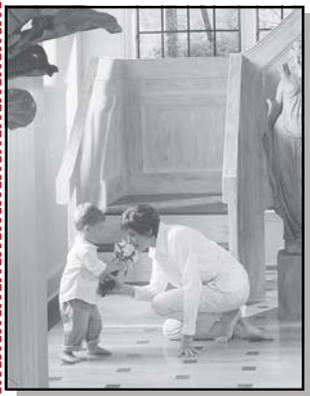
are scheduled to perform this season.

Lar Lubovitch Dance Company will be performing the Washington, D.C. area premiere of "Coltrane's Favorite Things" as well as classic pieces "North Star" and "Nature Boy: Kurt Elling." Also performing this season is the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company, the official dance company of The Philippines. The BBC Concert Orchestra will also be performing with Keith Lockhart, the newly named principal conductor of the orchestra, and guest pianist Ilya Yakushev. The Virginia Opera will be performing twice this fall, presenting Verdi's

tragic masterpiece "Rigoletto" and Mozart's beloved opera "Così fan tutte". Dailey & Vincent, an up and coming bluegrass duo formed in 2007 who has already won 10 International Bluegrass Music Association Awards for their first album and has been nominated for another 10 awards this year, is also scheduled. All these performances and much more are scheduled this fall season to commemorate 20 years of the George Mason Center for the Arts. Ticket pricing varies per venue. For more information and tickets about the upcoming acts this fall season go to [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

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## GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

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**Time: 1pm-4pm**

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### 2010 PUBLIC UPDATE

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting a Dulles Toll Road 2010 Update to provide information to the public about the Toll Road's finances, operations and planned improvements.

The public session will be conducted in an open house format, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Monday, October 25, 2010  
South Lakes High School - Cafeteria  
11400 South Lakes Drive  
Reston, VA 20191

There will be informational exhibits and representatives from the Airports Authority present to discuss Dulles Toll Road revenue raised as a result of the enacted toll increase in 2010 and to provide information on future approved toll increases as well as what improvements to the Toll Road are planned in addition to financing a portion of the Dulles Metrorail Project.

See exhibits on-line at [www.mwaa.com/tollroad](http://www.mwaa.com/tollroad) after October 20th.

For special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, citizens may call (703) 934-4639, at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

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## ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to [herndon@connectionnewsletters.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewsletters.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewsletters.com](http://www.connectionnewsletters.com).

### THURSDAY/OCT. 7

**October Bird Walk.** 7:30 p.m. Bright Pond and the Beaver Swamp. Park at the cul de sac on Bright Pond Lane, Reston. Beginning and expert birders welcome. 703-476-9689 or [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org).

**Fall Gardening.** 7 p.m. Walker Nature Education Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. How to take care of gardens and lawn in fall and see what can be planted this season. Age 16 and up. \$5 RA members, \$8 non-members. Reserve at 703-476-9689 or [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org).

**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.

**Robbie Schaefer.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Best known for his lead guitar role in the folk-pop band Eddie From Ohio. \$20. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"Kimberly Akimbo."** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Maxie Morales. Tickets \$12 Adults, \$8 students and seniors. [Cfa.gmu.edu](http://Cfa.gmu.edu).

### FRIDAY/OCT. 8

**Oktoberfest Reston.** 3-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center in Reston. Live entertainment, German style dancing and more. Free admission, food tickets \$1 per ticket or \$20 for 24 tickets. Tickets available at [www.oktoberfestreston.com](http://www.oktoberfestreston.com).

**Luka Bloom.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Currently touring in support of his 2010 folk music release, *Dreams in America*. \$27. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"Kimberly Akimbo."** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Maxie Morales. Tickets \$12 Adults, \$8 students and seniors. [Cfa.gmu.edu](http://Cfa.gmu.edu).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 9

**Spiedel, Goodrich, Goggin & Lille.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Guitar-backed harmonies. \$22. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**"Kimberly Akimbo."** 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Maxie Morales. Tickets \$12 Adults, \$8 students and seniors. [Cfa.gmu.edu](http://Cfa.gmu.edu).

**American Festival Pops Orchestra.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. American music from television, movies and Broadway. Tickets \$23-\$46, youth through grade 12 half price. [Cfa.gmu.edu](http://Cfa.gmu.edu).

**Bobbe Shore Jazz Combo.** 8:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Reston Town Center, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Every Saturday through Oct. 703-925-8250.

**Family Friendly Irish Set & Ceili Community Dance.** 7 p.m. at Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Live music by the Bogwonderers Ceili Band & Friends. \$12-\$35. [www.ccepotomac.org](http://www.ccepotomac.org) or 703-521-4340.

**Oktoberfest Reston.** 8:30 a.m.-11 p.m. at at



The Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon presents Dead Men's Hollow. 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16. Tickets are \$12. 703-435-8377 or [www.deadmenshollow.com](http://www.deadmenshollow.com).

Reston Town Center in Reston. Live entertainment, German style dancing and more. Free admission, food tickets \$1 per ticket or \$20 for 24 tickets. Tickets available at [www.oktoberfestreston.com](http://www.oktoberfestreston.com).

**Great Pumpkin 5k Race and Kid's Pumpkin Dash.** 8:30 a.m. at Reston Town Center, Reston. Pumpkin decorating contest, Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce post race breakfast, food vendors, beer garden and more. [www.thegreatpumpkin5k.com](http://www.thegreatpumpkin5k.com).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 10

**Oktoberfest Reston.** 12-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center in Reston. Live entertainment, German style dancing and more. Free admission, food tickets \$1 per ticket or \$20 for 24 tickets. Tickets available at [www.oktoberfestreston.com](http://www.oktoberfestreston.com).

**"Kimberly Akimbo."** 2 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Written by David Lindsay-Abaire, directed by Maxie Morales. Tickets \$12 Adults, \$8 students and seniors. [Cfa.gmu.edu](http://Cfa.gmu.edu).

### MONDAY/OCT. 11

**Mr. Knick Knack Children's Performance.** 10:30 a.m. Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music for kids. Free. [www.restontowncenter.com](http://www.restontowncenter.com).

### TUESDAY/OCT. 12

**Financial Issues for Caregivers.** 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Professional long-term care can deplete assets quickly. Maximize your resources, stretch financial assets, and avoid common money mistakes that caregivers make. Adults. 703-437-8855.

**Money Matters.** 7:15 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Discussion of the risk and reward of various asset allocations. Suggested reading: *The Investor's Manifesto* by William Bernstein. Adults. 703-242-4020.

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 13

**ESL for Jobs.** 6:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. English

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Send announcements to [herndon@connectionnewsletters.com](mailto:herndon@connectionnewsletters.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewsletters.com](http://www.connectionnewsletters.com).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 23

**Air & Scare.** 2-8 p.m. at Stephen F. Udvar Hazy Air & Space Museum, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Over 30 activity stations with trick or treating, games, Stars Wars characters, face painting, cartoons, creepy crafts, telescopes, door prizes and more. Costumes encouraged. 35-minute puppet shows by Beale Street Puppets at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. [www.nasm.si.edu/](http://www.nasm.si.edu/)

### SUNDAY/OCT. 24

**Monster Mash.** 1-4 p.m. at M&S Bar and Grill, 11901 Democracy Drive, Reston. Silent auction to benefit the Fender Music Foundation, music provided by student bands from Bach to Rock. Costumes encouraged. 703-657-2830.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 21

**Arts & Crafts Fair.** 2-4 p.m. at Tall Oaks Assisted Living, 12052 N. Shore Drive, Reston. Featuring local artists. Open to the community. 703-834-3630 or [jackson@talloaksal.com](mailto:jackson@talloaksal.com).

p.m. at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Beinart, author and Senior Fellow at the New America Foundation and a professor at City University of New York, will speak on *The Failure of the American Jewish Establishment and Israel's Survival*. Free and open to the public. 703-437-7733 or [www.nvhreston.org](http://www.nvhreston.org).

**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.

**Visual Voices Series: Illegal Alien's Guide to Reverse Anthropology.** 7:30 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Enrique Chagoya, speaker. Free, open to the public. 703-993-8898.

### FRIDAY/OCT. 15

**"Wonderful Town"** 8 p.m. at CenterStage Theater in Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A musical, based on the play "My Sister Eileen". 703-476-4500 or [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org).

**The Virginia Opera: Verdi's "Rigoletto."** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

### SATURDAY/OCT. 16

**Family Fun Day at Reston Heights.** 11790 Sunrise Valley Drive. Reston Interfaith Help the Homeless Community Walk at 11 a.m., Festival 12-5 p.m. Live music with Theo "Teo" Rushin, Jr. King Street Bluegrass, J&B Blues Project and HeLo. Petting zoo, face painting, children's activities

### TUESDAY/OCT. 14

Peter Beinart to Speak at NVHC. 8

all afternoon, interactive Lego and more. 2. Car Club's Judging and People's Choice Award at 2:30 p.m. Free admission. [www.reston-heights.com/festival](http://www.reston-heights.com/festival) or 703-234-3509.

**"Wonderful Town"** 8 p.m. at CenterStage Theater in Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A musical, based on the play "My Sister Eileen". 703-476-4500 or [www.restonplayers.org](http://www.restonplayers.org).

**Comedian Seth Meyers.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$25, available through [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**String Quartet Brooklyn Rider.** 8 p.m. at George Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$20-\$40. Works by traditional and contemporary classical composers. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Charge by phone at 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Northern Virginia Gamers (NOVAG) Annual Fall Game Day.** 11 a.m. at the Game Parlor, 13936 Metro Tech Drive, Chantilly. \$2 admission fee. The event will feature games using miniature figures to re-fight historical battles from the American Civil War and World War II. Contact Tim Tilson at 703-273-9436. [www.novag.org](http://www.novag.org).

### SUNDAY/OCT. 17

**The Virginia Opera: Verdi's "Rigoletto."** 2:30 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or [www.tickets.com](http://www.tickets.com).

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Check out our new website: [MerrifieldGardenCenter.com](http://MerrifieldGardenCenter.com)

## PEOPLE



**Dr. Susan Barry**

### Herndon Vet, Dr. Susan Barry, Retires

After over 25 years of serving clients and their pets, Dr. Susan Barry has retired and sold Herndon Animal Medical Center. Dr. Barry moved to Northern Virginia after graduating from Oklahoma State University. She worked at Great Falls Animal Hospital and Animal Clinic of Tall Oaks before opening her own business, Herndon Animal Medical Center in 1988.

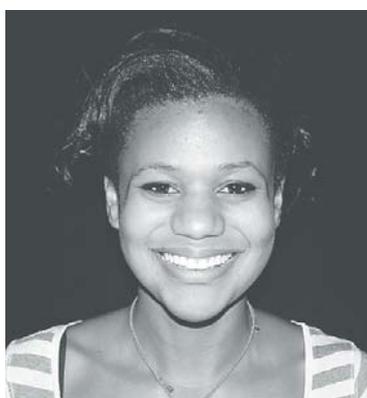
Dr. Barry has touched the lives of so many families and their pets. Clients have said that hearing of her retirement feels like losing a beloved member of their family. Herndon Animal Medical Center was always covered in photographs of client's pets.

### Karah Morgan Performs in 'Our Town'

Karah Morgan, a 2007 graduate of Herndon High School, has been cast in Longwood University Theatre's production of "Our Town" by Thornton Wilder.

Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town' has been noted as America's most produced play with more than 4,000 productions in the past decade. The play earned Wilder the Pulitzer Prize in 1938 and was produced as a movie in 1940.

Morgan, a Longwood senior and Liberal Studies Major with a Theatre Minor, performs as the Stage Manager, a character who sets the mood for the scenes throughout the play. She previously appeared on the Longwood stage in "The Trial of One Short-Sighted Black Woman vs. Mammy Louise and Safreeta Mae." Karah is the daughter of Cheryl Cooper Morgan and Lafayette Morgan Jr. of Herndon.



**Karah Morgan**

### Aasieya Husain Wins Miss India-D.C. Crown

Guyanese born, 18-year old Herndon resident Aasieya Husain, walked away with the crown for the 2010 Miss India D.C. Pageant Saturday evening, Sept. 18.

The competition was held at George Washington University at the Betts Theatre in Washington D.C. The contestants from various parts of the Washington, Virginia and Maryland Metro area vied for the title of the 2010 Miss India D.C.

The pageant consisted of four segments - Evening Gown, Indian Dress, Talent and Q&A.

A first year student at Marymount University, she is pursuing her undergraduate degree in Business Administration. Husain is passionate about performing and is volunteering for nonprofit organizations in her spare time.

Her hobbies include acting, modeling, dancing and shopping. She said she entered the Miss India D.C. Pageant because of her passion for fashion but more importantly because this provides her the opportunity to showcase her culture as well as meet new



PHOTO BY SALZSTUDIO

**Aasieya Husain**

friends.

Husain will compete next year for the Miss India USA in New York. She is also the reigning NAM 2010 Miss Teen Virginia Top Model.

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## FALL FUN



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

From left, Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic Executive Director Meagan Ulrich poses with volunteers Khemry Min, Carolina Chavez and Jane Storey in what will be the clinic's medical center at its new location in the Connections for Hope center. Several non-profit organizations will be housed in the new center off Dulles Technology Drive.

# Fall on the Greens

BY ALEX MCVEIGH  
THE CONNECTION

While Winter is approaching, it's not time to put away the golf clubs yet. The Herndon Centennial Golf Course is hosting a few more tournaments this season, both for good causes and personal pride.

The annual Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic Golf Tournament was postponed due to rain, and is now scheduled for Oct. 14.

The clinic provides free health services to patients with no insurance, including non-emergency care for children and full medical care for adults with high blood pressure or diabetes. The annual tournament is one of their main fundraising events.

"We need the money more than ever these days," said Meagan Ulrich, the executive director. "We're expanding our services and people need them more than ever."

The Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic began as a series of free clinics in the summer of 2002 at Herndon Middle School. Since then, they have moved into their own building and expanded the range of services they offer.

"There are a lot of Americans without health insurance, and a lot waiting to get government assistance," said Mani Fierro, one of the event chairmen. "But people with diabetes and high blood pressure can't afford to wait."

This is the fourth year of the tournament, and their goal this

year is to raise \$15,000. This is the first year they have had a presenting sponsor, Choice Hotels.

"I think they decided to sponsor the tournament because they are a part of the community, and we help the community," Ulrich said.

Fierro says that even though parts of the community aren't in need of the services the clinic provides, their work benefits everyone.

"If you can help that one child with a heart disease or terminal disease, you're helping everyone's child," he said. "We just want people to come out and have fun."

There are still foursomes available, the cost is \$125 per player, which includes greens fees, cart, range balls, beverages and lunch. For more information, or to register, visit [www.jsfreeclinic.org](http://www.jsfreeclinic.org).

**ON OCT. 9**, the golf course will host the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Cup tournament. Herndon Mayor Steve DeBenedittis invites the community to come out and enjoy a day hitting the links.

"The 18-hole, captain's choice format, followed by the annual barbecue, is designed to provide everyone, from the most experienced golfer to the weekend hacker, an opportunity to play," he said.

The tournament is open to all individuals, the director of gold will pair players up with other individuals. The captain's choice format is a best ball format. Each team's captain will have final say on the shot used for each stroke.

## Fall Fun in Herndon

❖ Oct. 14: The Herndon Centennial Golf Course will host the fourth annual Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic Golf Tournament, registration starts at 8:30 a.m.

❖ Oct. 22: The Herndon Community Center will host the annual Spooktacular from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The event will feature a costume parade, pumpkin carving contest, ghoulish games and creepy cuisine. Cost is \$8 in advance, \$11 at the event.

❖ Oct. 23: ArtSpace will host Israeli classical guitarist Shiri Coneh, as part of the Daniel Pearl World Music Days Concert Series at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students and seniors.

❖ Oct. 26: The Herndon Centennial Golf Course will host the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Mayor's Cup Golf Tournament. There will be a meet and greet a noon, tee off time is 12:30 p.m. There will be a barbecue at the conclusion of the tournament, at approximately 5 p.m. and the public is invited to attend.

❖ Nov. 6: Herndon ArtSpace will host an opening reception for its Keith Rocco exhibit, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Rocco specializes in historical art.

❖ Nov. 11: The annual Town of Herndon Veterans Day Ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on the Town Green.

❖ Nov. 20: The Herndon Centennial Golf Course will host the annual Thanksgiving Golf Tournament, starting at 9 a.m.

❖ Nov. 20: The Herndon Community Center will be the starting point for the annual Turkey Trot 5K at 4 p.m. Used running shoes will be collected to be ground up and made into track fields, basketball courts and more. A turkey and all the trimmings will be given to the male and female winners.

❖ Dec. 4: The annual Tree Lighting and Holiday Sing-Along will take place at 5 p.m. at the Herndon Town Green.

The best shot is the spot each shot will be taken from.

There will be a barbecue after the tournament, at approximately 5 p.m., and those who are not participating at the tournament are invited to attend as well.

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# Hornets Enjoy Quite a Ride at New Jersey Meet

**Sherry's Herndon cross country teams shine in Garden State.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Traveling outside of the area and competing against an unfamiliar group of schools hardly caused a ripple for the Herndon High cross country program last Saturday at the Great Adventure Safari Invitational. The large showcase high school event, held at Six Flags Great Adventure Amusement Park in Jackson, N.J., consisted of schools mostly from the Garden State and gave the Hornets a refreshing look at the prep school cross country scene in another setting outside of Northern Virginia.

"They did very well," said Herndon coach Pete Sherry, who grew up around that part of the country. "It was nice to get away from Virginia and race against kids they'd never raced against before."

There were numerous divisions of races, according to school size, at the inaugural midseason meet. Middle and high school teams from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Virginia

were represented. The meet attracted more than 200 teams and 4,500 runners.

The winding 3.1-mile running route consisted of dirt and grassy terrain, including protected woodlands, a scenic creek and 1.4 miles of the Six Flags Wild Safari American Section.

One preview write-up of the event said runners "will run with fallow deer, llama, wild turkeys and rhea birds."

The Herndon varsity girls' and boys' squads competed in the B Division races. There, the Hornets excelled as the girls took second place and the boys third place in their respective races.

"Each race was about the size of a Northern Region or [Virginia] state meet," said Sherry, who said about 30 schools and 160 runners made up each of the varsity B races.

The Herndon girls were led by senior Carolyn Hennessey, who was the individual champion of the girls' B race and carried the second best overall time of the day for all female runners overall of the divisions with a time of 18 minutes, 18 seconds.

"She's clearly established herself as one of the top runners," said Sherry, who believes Hennessey is one of the elite high school girls' runners in Virginia.

Hennessey, following the post event awards ceremonies, was honored - along with the day's other top seven girls' and boys' runners - by being escorted to the

front of the line at the Kingda Ka roller coaster ride. The Six Flags super coaster is known as the tallest (45 stories) and fastest (zero to 125 mph in 3.5 seconds) in the country. So it was only fitting that the day's fastest cross country runners, which included Hennessey, boarded the amusement park's fastest ride.

"I didn't even want to look at it," said Sherry, admittedly in awe of the super roller coaster.

**ANOTHER FIRST PLACE FINISHER** for the Herndon girls on Saturday was junior Ashley Grupenhoff, who won the girls' JV race and is likely to give the Herndon varsity a nice lift over the second half of the season.

For the Herndon varsity boys, Jimmy Luehrs and Troy Hunsaker finished seventh and 10th overall, respectively. Also giving the Hornets a nice boost was sophomore Bradley Heuer, inserted into the Herndon starting line-up as a result of some team illnesses that struck the Hornets last week.

This Saturday evening, Herndon will take part in the annual Glory Days Invitational at Bull Run Park. Sherry said he would like to gain a better idea of where his boys' and girls' teams stand among other Northern Region opponents who will also be competing at one of the season's landmark races.

"I want to get a feel of where we fit in [within] the region and out district," said the coach.



PHOTO COURTESY/MAIKA

**Jefferson High girls' cross country runner Sarah Stites, a Reston resident, competes at the recent Oaklands Invitational in Leesburg.**

Numerous local student-athletes earned top 20 medals at last Saturday's Octoberfest high school cross country Invitational meet, held at Great Meadows in The

of Vienna, was 14th.

Top Jefferson runners in the JV (junior/senior) boys' race included Vienna's Steve Weischedel (8th place) and Clifton's Matt Baron (48th).

## SPORTS ROUNDUP

Plains. The Thomas Jefferson High program, a member of the Liberty District, won four races at the showcase event - the varsity A girls; both the girls' and boys' JV (juniors/seniors) competitions; and the JV (freshmen/sophomore) boys' race. Liberty District schools Jefferson, Langley, Madison and McLean each had runners earn medals. Top finishers in the varsity A girls' race from Jefferson were: McLean resident Stephanie Marzen (17th place); Reston's Sarah Stites (20th); McLean's Kelly Rogers (32nd); McLean's Rekha Schnepf (34th); Reston's Sarah Neilsen (53rd); and Oak Hill's Taylor Reffet (59th).

Other top outings from the Liberty included: Madison High's Christina Galiano (19th place) and Langley Saxon runners Elissa Purdy (40th), Jessica Miles (43rd), and Esther Jeong (46th).

Jefferson's Jonathan Phillips, a Herndon resident, was 17th overall in the varsity A boys' race.

The McLean High girls' team finished fourth place overall in the varsity B race. Top Highlander outings in the race came from Madalyn Harper (8th place), Laura Baker (24th), Alexa Tabackman (25th), Samantha Downey (30th), and Katie Montgomery (32nd).

Langley High finished fifth place in the JV (juniors/seniors) girls' race. Top Saxon finishers were Caroline Mahoney (7th place) and Grace Brasell (17th). Jefferson's Elizabeth Ellor, a Reston resident, was sixth overall, and Jefferson's Katie Bailey,

**Former University of Virginia women's swimmer Mei Christensen**, a South Lakes High graduate who completed her eligibility on the UVA swim team in 2010, has been selected as a Top 30 honoree for the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Woman of the Year award. The award honors female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their college careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, community service and leadership.

"It is obvious by her academic and athletic accomplishments that Mei Christensen is a champion and fierce competitor in the classroom and in the water," said UVA Athletics Director Craig Littlepage. "Few student-athletes have compiled a more impressive resume. She is one of our program's all-time greats."

The Top 30 honorees, nominated by conference and independent members, are representative of multiple sports. Three finalists (3 each from NCAA Div. 1, 2 and 3) will be chosen to form the nine finalists for the Woman of the Year award. The national winner will be chosen by the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics.

Christensen earned her bachelor's degree in psychology in May of 2010. She is currently enrolled in UVA's Curry School of Education and is slated to receive her master's degree in December.

## First at Invitational

**The Jefferson High girls' varsity cross country team finished first at the Oaklands Invitational on Sept. 25 in Leesburg. Left to right: Sarah Neilsen (Reston), Kelly Rogers (McLean), Rekha Schnepf (McLean), Sarah Stites (Reston), Stephanie Marzen (McLean), and Taylor Reffet (Oak Hill).**



PHOTO COURTESY/MAIKA

# Asked But Not Answered



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Fine" and "Yes" I can answer because I sort of expect the questions before they're asked, and I kind of know from whom and where they're coming. The other day however, I was asked one of the standard questions written about in the above-mentioned columns, but it was asked in a completely unexpected context/environment and as a direct result, I was taken totally by surprise.

I was grocery shopping, alone at my local Giant, minding my own business when I caught a glimpse/stare from a woman, about my age, standing in the Produce section. We were too far away for a conversation but I did take note of the look. It/she did not really register on my radar and I thought nothing of it. (Though I appear relatively "normal" now; as a former bald, unhealthy-looking, chemotherapy patient, I have grown — and grew — accustomed to such looks and never let them bother me. I know how I looked but I never let anyone's reaction to my appearance affect me in the slightest; I certainly had bigger fish to fry, if you know what I mean?) And I imagine, that would have been the end of it, had it not been for a second in-store encounter approximately 15 minutes later.

This time the location was in the Frozen Foods section; this woman and I were now in the same aisle, a few feet away. She stared at me, again; this time she spoke, called me by name, in fact. I looked at her, still not remembering who she was, and confessed that she had me at a loss; I apologized for not recognizing. Then she told me her name, and her husband's name as she pointed to him standing nearby (whom I hadn't seen yet — or at all), and of course, I immediately exclaimed their names. I hugged her and then reached out to shake her husband's hand.

I had not seen this couple in at least 13 years, an amount of time I calculated since it had been that long that I've been working at the Connection. Our previous friendship/association, such as it was (casual through mutual friends, even though I actually knew them in college) hadn't been updated over the years. Though Dina and I remain extremely close with these mutual friends, they have not and as a consequence, our respective lives have not intersected for many years.

After the awkward exchange of pleasantries and recollections, and inquiries about these friends, came "the question." Though I am asked about my health all the time (as most people are), I have not been previously asked about it by anybody who doesn't already know my particular circumstances. And since I don't exactly — currently — look the part of a stage IV lung cancer patient, it was easy — for me, to dodge their well-meaning question/comment: "Jeez, Kenny, you look great! How are you doing?" and respond accordingly:

"Great." "Fine," I answered. And as I hemmed and hawed and stammered my way around the obvious (in my head, anyway), I decided not to even mention the "obvious," and kept my answers short and sweet, deciding instead to spare them — and myself, quite frankly, the following lead balloon: ("Oh. Not bad. Except I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer last February.")

I just couldn't climb that emotional mountain; what they don't know won't hurt them (believe me). But my telling them might have hurt me. And so I made no mention of "it." I figured this time the less said the better. At this stage (pun intended) of my cancer-affected life, self-preservation has to be my number one concern.

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

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PRINT EDITIONS

# SPORTS

## No More Putting it Off

It's time to attend a high school sporting event.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Remember back in high school going to all of those games with your friends or family? The field hockey playoffs on a crisp, fall October night, or one of those big weekend invitational cross country meets where it seemed as if every high school runner in the state was on hand, warming up for the big race set to take place on the scenic, green grounds.

Well, if your high school sports attending days ended with graduation, maybe it's about time to renew your old acquaintance with the world of high school sports in Northern Virginia. The 2010 autumn sports season is halfway complete, but there is still plenty of time to take in a high school athletic event in the Herndon or Reston area. You've probably thought of attending a game for years but never quite got around to it.

Waste no more time. There are numerous high school games taking place throughout the week as well as on Saturdays in our surrounding community. If cold weather is

not your thing, try out an indoor girls' or guys' high school volleyball match. Chances are it won't take long to get swept up into the action.

Here are some upcoming high school athletic events to perhaps consider attending at South Lakes and Herndon High Schools:

◆ Herndon girls' volleyball: The Hornets will host Robinson at 7:15 p.m. next Thursday, Oct. 14 at 7:15 in a Concorde District matchup. Herndon, under coach Pat Smith, is one of the better and more exciting teams within the Northern Region.

◆ South Lakes Field Hockey: The South Lakes girls' field hockey team, coached by Jennifer Diana, will host Marshall next Wednesday, Oct. 13 in what is sure to be a spirited meeting between the Liberty District rivals. There will be plenty of action in store for both Seahawk and Statesmen fans as sticks bang against sticks and the girls go all out to find the other teams' net. Game time is 7:30.

◆ Herndon Football: The Hornets, a play-off team a year ago, are struggling this fall and would certainly be buoyed by even more support from their fans around the area. If you've never experienced a Herndon Homecoming Saturday afternoon, make this the year. The Hornets, on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 23 at 1, will celebrate their 2010 Homecoming with a game against Loudoun Valley.

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## FALL FUN

FROM PAGE 3

was it, it only took about 15 minutes. We've added stuff every year, and now it's more of an event."

It has become a community event, with bands playing, pizzas being sold and outdoor games for children. This year, several groups from Bach to Rock, a local music school, will be playing.

"We try and grow every year, to add more concessions, more activities," Birmingham said. "We get a great response from local businesses from around the community."

**IT TAKES** about 25 people to run the inside of the haunted house, including the haunters themselves and the people that run the effects. Their initial marketing efforts were just to advertise locally to the community, but now they are listed on several haunted house websites, and have haunted house-junkies from all over the area coming out.

This year, Kelly and Birmingham are hoping that they can avoid the rain that has been present the past three years, but they say that the response has been good despite poor weather. They estimate almost 1,500 visits last year.

"Just standing at the door, watching the people lined up to



PHOTO BY GREG DAILY PHOTOGRAPHY

**Tim Kelly, as the clown, and Kathleen Peper, as the witch, prepare to frighten patrons of the Bradley Farm Haunted House.**

come in, it's very rewarding to see that response," Birmingham said. "It's gratifying to be able to raise so much money as well, I couldn't write the check myself."

Though the theme of this year's

haunted house is a carnival, the details of the haunted house are being kept under wraps until the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Birmingham's only warning: "I hope you're not afraid of clowns."

## FAITH NOTES

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

**Dranesville Church of the Brethren**, 11500 Leesburg Pike in Herndon, is seeking volunteers to assist the homeless. Contact the church at 703-430-7872, [www.dranesvillebrethren.org](http://www.dranesvillebrethren.org) or [DCOBoffice@aol.com](mailto:DCOBoffice@aol.com).

♦**Grate Patrol to D.C.** 2:30 p.m. Oct. 16. Take sandwiches and other items to take to DC. We will meet up with the Salvation Army GratePatrol Van.

♦**Loudoun County Salvation Army.** 1 p.m. Oct. 30. Make sandwiches with fruit cups, chips and water in individual brown bags, for the homeless and many senior citizens in need in Loudoun County.

♦**LINK Needs.** The LINK pantry is in need of soups, jelly, ChefBoyardee-type items, canned meat and fruit, spaghetti sauce, cake and cookie mixes, single-serve oatmeal packages and more. Contact the church for a complete list of current needs.

**Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscans Open House.** 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7 at Saint Joseph Meeting Room 205, 750 Peachtree St., Herndon. The Third Order Secular Franciscans is an order within the Catholic Church. The SFO are members of local fraternities who recognize that they are called to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis. Brothers and Sisters of these

fraternities, led by the spirit, strive for perfect charity in their own secular state. For a brochure contact Bill Bouffard, Tau Minister at [billbouf@cesmail.net](mailto:billbouf@cesmail.net) or 703-437-6465.

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St. in Herndon, presents "Journey to Adulthood", a comprehensive Christian Education for youth in grades 6-12. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core message that adulthood must be earned.

**Bright Pond Bible Study** presents their 12th year of Bible study, a non-denominational group of women searching the Bible for God's truth. Meeting at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1133 Reston Ave. in Herndon, starting 9:30 a.m. Sept. 22. [bpbiblestudy@aol.com](mailto:bpbiblestudy@aol.com).

**Floris United Methodist Church**, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, holds worship services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. 703-793-0026 or [www.florisumc.org](http://www.florisumc.org).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for this new Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a growing Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or [www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org).

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need.

No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail [shawl@saint-timothys.org](mailto:shawl@saint-timothys.org) or visit the Pastoral Care page at [www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org).

**Nondenominational Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

**Adult Sunday school** will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center** offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

# REAL ESTATE NOTES

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the next week's paper.

**David Houghtaling and Jalil Achir of Reston** were among the Coldwell Banker agents receiving The Award of Excellence from the nationally renowned real estate marketing and technology speaker and REALTOR.com® Vice President, Max Pigman. The Award of Excellence program was created to recognize top real estate agents across the country who

consistently provide great marketing services on behalf of their buyers and sellers.

**Nikki Ryan** of Keller Williams Realty in Reston has earned the "Certified Distressed Property Expert" designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales. Realtors with the designation can offer the homeowner better alternatives to foreclosure, which virtually destroys the credit rating.

**Jerry Sardone, Realtor Emeritus of Jerry Sardone, Realty, Inc.** along with the Lakeview Condominium Board, have been able to petition the Federal Housing Administration to approve the Lakeview Condominiums for approval for FHA financing. The approval has now been granted. This financing will allow potential purchasers to purchase these units with as little as 3 1/2 % down. For information contact your local Realtor or Jerry at 703-906-5555.



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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to [kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com) All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.



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