

# Oak Hill ❖ Herndon CONNECTION

Inside  
COMMUNITY OUTLOOK  
& WINTER FUN GUIDE

A Herndon Department of Public Works truck struggles with snow from the Winter Storm Jonas. By Sunday, Jan. 25 snowplows were clearing major roads within the Reston and Herndon area. The area received 28 inches of

## Herndon, Reston Dig Out Of Blizzard

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### Snowstorm Q&A: Herndon's Bradley Snowed in with Best Friend

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PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2, 2016

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# HERNDON CRIME REPORTS

## Notable incidents from the Herndon Police Reports from Jan. 11-17.

- ### Major Incidents

**Fatal Accident** - Jan. 13, Monroe Street/Van Buren Street. On Wednesday, Jan. 13 at approximately 9:35 a.m. a motorcycle traveling eastbound on Monroe Street and a vehicle traveling northbound on Van Buren Street collided. The motorcyclist, a 19-year-old male of Ashburn, was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. No charges have been placed at this time, the accident remains under investigation. Anyone who witnessed or may have information about this accident is asked to call the Herndon Police at 703-435-6844.

**Robbery** - Jan. 12, 500-Blk Florida Avenue. A suspect known to the victim allegedly stole a phone valued at approximately \$200. The case is under investigation.
- Jan. 11, 7:35 p.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1000 Elden St.

Jan. 12, 5:36 p.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1200 Elden St.

Jan. 13, 9 a.m. Disorderly Conduct, 1000 Elden St.

Jan. 13, 1:34 p.m. Fail to Appear, 600 Dulles Park Court

Jan. 13, 4:56 p.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1100 Elden St.

Jan. 14, midnight. Alarm Residential, 1300 Summerfield Drive

Jan. 14, 7:57 a.m. Warrant Service Sterling Road/Herndon Parkway

Jan. 14, 12:27 a.m. Destruction of Property, 1200 Springtide Place

Jan. 15, 11:55 a.m. Solicitation, 1000 Elden St.

Jan. 15, 6:35 p.m. Larceny-All Other, 1000 Elden St.

Jan. 15, 9:41 p.m. Unauthorized Use of Motor Vehicle, 1200 Elden St.

Jan. 16, 2:01 p.m. Assault-Simple, 600 Dulles Park Court

Jan. 16, 3:01 p.m. Larceny-All Other, 1200 Elden St.

Jan. 17, midnight. Solicitation, 1000 Elden St.

Jan. 17, 12:47 a.m. Drunkenness (DIP), 1200 Elden St.

Jan. 17, 11:01 a.m. Larceny-Theft from Building, 500 Early Fall Court
- Jan. 13, 1:35 p.m. Fail to Appear, 700 Lynn St.

Jan. 14, 8:16 p.m. Larceny-from Motor Vehicle, 700 Station St./Elden St.

Jan. 17,5:38 p.m. Larceny-All Other, 1000 Hertford St.

Jan. 11, 1:46 a.m. Driving Under the Influence Redwood Pl/Sterling Road

Jan. 11, 2:53 a.m. Assault-Simple, 1300 April Way

Jan. 11, 6:57 a.m. Trespass - Banned, 1000 Elden St.

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**Metrorail is coming.**



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Sign for the Woody's Golf Range located on Route 7 in Herndon. After 35 years in operation, business owner Woody FitzHugh is closing the range.**

## What's Coming?

### Sites and developments to look at in Herndon area.

COMPILED BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

#### 1 Ashwell Property/Herndon's Downtown

Elden Street

Following the purchase of the Ashwell property which created a contiguous 4.675 acres of Town-owned land in Herndon's downtown, the Town issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on Nov. 2.

The town's vision for redevelopment calls for four-story (mixed-use/residential) and three-story (mixed-use/commercial) structures, a jointly-funded public/private parking structure, and an 18,000-square-foot arts center, among other features.

Initial proposals are due in February 2016.

Herndon's Council voted in May to purchase 1.67 acres of land in Herndon's historic downtown from Ashwell, LLC for \$3.519 million.

The process will be executed in two phases: an initial concept phase, open to all proposers, and a detailed phase, open to proposers upon invitation following review of initial concept phase proposals.

According to the RFP, Herndon: "hereby solicits submission of proposals for the redevelopment of 4.675 acres of land in historic downtown Herndon into an attractive, mixed-use development, including a parking structure in which the Town has fee interest to a minimum of 220 spaces. The Town envisions a development of excellent design and quality providing the historic town core with additional vitality while respecting and reflecting the heritage of the downtown," according to Town documents. "The Town envisions these benefits to be utilized to develop a superb environment

for outdoor pedestrian enhancements including outdoor dining and passive and programmed activities."

The Town will have circulator bus service from the downtown to the future Metro station.

See progress on the downtown projects on its website [www.herndon.va.gov](http://www.herndon.va.gov).

"The Town of Herndon has been envisioning a comprehensive redevelopment in our downtown for decades," said Mayor Lisa Merkel. "Until this purchase, however, we have been limited in our ability to effectively position downtown Herndon for comprehensive redevelopment, as much of the necessary land was under private ownership."

See [http://www.herndon.va.gov/Content/Zoning/Downtown\\_Planning/PatternBookFINALTCadoptedJan292013.pdf](http://www.herndon.va.gov/Content/Zoning/Downtown_Planning/PatternBookFINALTCadoptedJan292013.pdf) for Herndon's guide for downtown development.

#### 2 Herndon Fire Station

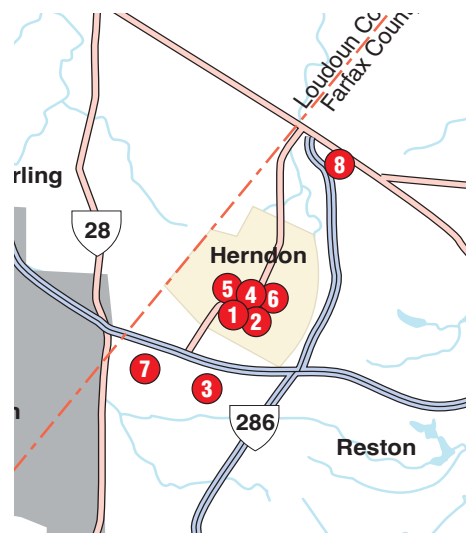
680 Spring Street

The new Herndon Fire Station, estimated to cost \$13.35 million, is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2016. The 14,500 square-foot fire station at 680 Spring Street will be a two-story facility with below-grade parking. A temporary fire station has been constructed at 791 Elden Street so Fire and Rescue can maintain service during construction. The project is funded through a bond referendum that Fairfax County voters approved in November 2014. The former fire station on Spring Street was the oldest station in operation in Fairfax County.

#### 3 Innovation Center Metrorail Station (Fairfax County Board of Supervisors)

PCA/FDPA 2009-HM-017

South side of Dulles Toll Road and Sunrise Valley Drive, West of Dulles Station Boulevard



The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors seek to amend the approved proffers associated with RZ 2009-PR-017 previously approved for transit oriented development near the future Innovation Center Metrorail Station consisting of approximately 1.65 million square feet of residential, office, hotel, retail and public use development (including bonus density associated with the provision of workforce dwelling units). Changes proposed include requirements for tree preservation, landscaping, stormwater management and sign locations. No change to the previously approved floor area ratio (FAR) of 3.05 for the original rezoning application area is proposed.

The Planning Commission has scheduled a public hearing for Feb. 3 at 8:15 p.m. and the Board of Supervisors has a scheduled hearing for Feb. 16 at 3:30 p.m.

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

#### 4 Herndon Silver Line

<http://www.dullesmetro.com/silver-line-stations/herndon/>

"We are so fortunate," Mayor Lisa Merkel said of the Silver Line. "This is a huge project, one of the biggest infrastructure projects in the country. There's aren't many towns that can get involved in projects like

this."

Construction will begin on Herndon's future Silver Line Stop in 2016 with its opening within five years.

The entire Silver Line will be a 23-mile extension of the existing Metrorail system from East Falls Church, through Tysons and Reston, and eventually to Washington Dulles International Airport west into Loudoun County.

The Herndon Town Council approved 38 acres to be set aside for its future Metro stop in February 2012. The Herndon Metro Area Station Plan envisions: a mix of retail, hotel, office and residential space, to include 3.2 million net square feet of additional commercial floor area and 2,400 dwellings by 2035; a promenade, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly trails and enhancements, and recreational amenities; premier office space; parking garages with short-term spaces for kiss-and-ride passengers; and pull-offs along Herndon Parkway for vehicles dropping off and picking up passengers.

"We passed a resolution in February advocating for the County to put a Circulator Bus route for Phase II because we want our residents to get to the Metro without having to get in the car," Mayor Merkel said. "If we have reliable, frequent transit options, people will use it."

Merkel wants everything in place by the time the Silver Line's doors open to Herndon in four or so years.

"People are going to establish their commuting patterns on that first day," Merkel said. "We are working with Fairfax County because we do want to be ready on day one."

#### 5 Vinehaven Homes

800 Vine Street, Center and Vine streets  
Evergreene Homes has already sold more than half of the 17 new homes at the intersection of Center and Vine streets and along the W&OD Trail in Herndon's Historic Dis

SEE HERNDON OUTLOOK, PAGE 9



# OPINION

## ‘Disappointing, Not Surprising’

### Bills to rein in predatory lending die in Senate committee.

#### EDITORIAL

**H**ave you ever paid 36 percent interest on a loan or credit card? Not likely. It's an outrageous rate, especially given that the actual cost of money is close to zero right now.

But right now, some people in Northern Virginia are paying more than 200 percent on loans secured by their car title. These are people who are both financially desperate and financially unsophisticated, who likely assume that regulation would keep a lender from bleeding them dry with unrestricted interest rates.

Predatory lending is a local issue, with car title lenders congregating in lower income areas like along Route 1 in the Mount Vernon area, and also queuing up near the border with Prince George's County, Md., where car title lending is illegal.

Earlier this week, a Virginia Senate committee killed a bill that would have capped consumer loan interest rates at 36 percent. It's hard

to believe, but right now there are no limits to the interest rates that can be charged in Virginia. And car title lenders, which are not consumer loans, often have effective interest rates of more than 200 percent.

“Predatory lending is a major problem in the U.S. 1 Corridor,” said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who introduced the failed legislation to curb predatory lending. “Car title lenders have been abusing this loophole by charging rates over 200 percent. ... To rein in car title lender bait and switch tactics, I am proposing to limit interest rates on consumer finance loans at 36 percent.” But that effort died in a Virginia Senate Committee this week.

Between 2010, when the Virginia General Assembly gave the green light to the car title lending industry, the total number of locations more than doubled from 184 to 395.

Some legislators claim this is a free market and personal responsibility issue, that people who have no other options should be able to turn to high interest lending as a last resort. But most people who turn to these loans would be better off without this last resort.

“It's a trap, and although it's presented as a loan it's really loan-sharking,” said Jay Speech,

executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. “People who get into this end up much worse off than when they started.”

We all pay the price when an industry preys on the poor. People who lose their cars can lose their jobs, then relying on the frayed and inadequate safety net.

Michael Pope, who wrote about car title lending abuses when he worked for the Connection and Gazette Packet, recently completed a multi-part investigative series on predatory lending for WAMU, which you can listen to here: [http://wamu.org/the\\_debt\\_trap](http://wamu.org/the_debt_trap)

When his series concluded, the message of the damage of predatory lending seemed to resonate. Legislation to rein in the abuses of 200 percent interest seemed destined to make a difference.

This year, it will not.

Attorney General Mark Herring tweeted, “disappointing, not surprising” on Monday in response to the news that all four bills that sought to limit predatory lending were voted down in committee.

Disappointing, but not surprising. A sad commentary.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

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## Progress on Transportation

BY KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

**I**n the early years of the 20th-century travelers were advised not to come to Virginia because of the poor condition of the roads. Deep ruts, mud holes and lack of maintenance made travel precarious in the Old Dominion. In 1925 State Senator Harry F. Byrd who as a young man had worked part-time on a private toll road—the Valley Pike in the Shenandoah Valley—ran for governor on the campaign slogan “Get Virginia out of the mud.” Byrd’s campaign was successful, and in his single term as governor he established the Virginia Department of Highways. His centralized highway system led to the present-day highway system that is one of the largest in the country with 57,867 miles of highways and 20,991 bridges. Byrd also implemented a “pay as you go” financing system that keeps the pace of highway construction and improvement at the rate of current revenue without borrowing. Old timers in the state remember traveling on roads that went from two to four lanes and back to two every few miles as money was available in the highway construction fund to complete the widening.

Governor Gerald Baliles who served from 1986 to 1990 was able to get a significant highway funding program approved in 1986 that along with federal funding was able to make improvements to the highway system and to introduce funding for mass transit. That was the last time politicians in Richmond could agree on a financing plan for

transportation until 2013 when new monies were approved along with a new approach for identifying projects.

Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne last week briefed the House Transportation Committee on which I serve and outlined the three Rs in transportation planning that have come about because of legislation passed the last couple of years. As a result of bipartisan efforts, Virginia’s transportation program has been renewed with new resources for all modes of transportation. The program has been reformed by requiring use of an outcome-based prioritization process with increased accountability and transparency. The transportation program has been refocused by replacing the decades-old allocation formula with a new formula that aligns funding with need. Gone is the approval of funding transportation by locality to a shift to regional consideration and statewide needs. Rather than the piecemeal approach to project funding there now will be full funding of projects. And the new system of funding that has been put in place is designed to shift prioritization from politics to factors of congestion mitigation, safety, accessibility, economic development, environmental concerns and land usage.

Governor Byrd’s Department of Highways whose name was changed to the Department of Transportation years ago has begun functioning with a multi-modal approach that includes bus and rail as well as bicycles and pedestrians. While Northern Virginia continues to face significant challenges as one of the most congested parts of the country, additional funding that is now available along with the outcome-based prioritization process will accrue to the benefit of our region. Results will not be immediate, but I believe we are moving in the right direction.

## Oak Hill & Herndon CONNECTION

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# OUTLOOK 2016

## Positive 2015 Real Estate Market Spurs Upbeat Outlook for the New Year

Experts predict continuing positive trend.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he final figures are in, and it looks like the 2015 local housing market was a modest winner. Coming off a banner 2013, the 2014 market left buyers, sellers, agents, brokers and lenders all feeling a bit edgy when the previous year's successes did not spill over into the next year. But despite a bit of a rollercoaster ride, 2015 closed with annual regional sales 9.4 percent higher than 2014 – their highest since 2006. Data for the region, that includes the general Metro area, as well as specifics for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church and Alexandria, and the towns of Herndon, Vienna and Clifton is supplied by RealEstate Business Intelligence, L.L.C. (RBI), an arm of the local MLS system.

In the first half of the year the normal buying pattern was disrupted by a number of factors, not the least being the long and difficult winter which pushed the start of the spring market from late January or February to mid-March.

"The hottest real estate season lost a solid month of sales," said Reston-based Keller Williams agent Andy Krumholz. "Then it ended earlier than normal, as well," he added.

"Normally lasting until late June before the summer slowdown, this past year the market went to sleep in May and stayed that way through Labor Day."

**TO EVERYONE'S RELIEF**, the second half of the year saw a real pick up in real estate action. Virgil Frizzell, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) chairman of the board noted "a strong fall market and sometimes a flurry of bidding wars" that helped overcome the slow start, even with the jitters that came as the world waited for the anticipated increase in the Fed Funds Rate by the Federal Reserve, and the adjustments to be made as new closing laws went into effect.

According to the RBI data, Fairfax County had the most closed sales in 2015, increasing 9.6 percent over 2014. Alexandria came in with a 9.4 percent increase, Fairfax City with 7.9 percent, Arlington with 3.9 percent and Falls Church with 3.8 percent.

Among the jurisdictions, Fairfax County also saw the highest increase in new listings, up 14.6 percent over the previous year, a trend that Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing broker-vice president Long and Foster Realtors in North Reston can attest to.



**Andy Krumholz, Agent Keller Williams Reston:** "The improving economic metrics have many pundits feeling optimistic about 2016. I expect

most areas to experience a 3-4 percent price improvement."

"We're a 60 percent/40 percent listing versus sales organization and it was a brisk year for us," she said, although at the moment "there's not a lot of inventory." Chairman Frizzell agrees that "our region could always benefit from affordably priced new homes that will help our renter population make the move to home ownership."

In terms of sales pricing, Lasansky's opinion is that it was an almost neutral market year. "Buyers couldn't 'steal' a house, but sellers couldn't easily sell a property not in good condition.

There was quite a bit of negotiating during many of the transactions." Krumholz agreed with that assessment. "Even as inventory increased and some sellers were adjusting their sales price expectations, buyers were remaining selective. Homes



**Anita Lasansky, CRB managing broker-vice president, Long and Foster North Reston:** "The current stock market fluctuations could be a good

thing for the local real estate market. Housing is looking like a pretty good bet."

that needed repairs or improvements languished on the market."

The RBI numbers show that both Lasansky and Krumholz were right in their thoughts about pricing and the average days on the market (DOM) of a given property. The region saw only a 1.1 percent increase in the median sales price. Behind D.C., Arlington County and Alexandria City led the way, with increases over 4 percent. In Fairfax County median sales prices were 3.2 percent higher in 2015 than in 2014. Only Falls Church saw a year-over-year decrease, dropping 1.4 percent, but keeping the "most expensive location crown" among the Northern Virginia locales with a 2015 median sales price of \$690,000. At 22, days on the market increased slightly for all of the areas analyzed, but even those increases



**Virgil Frizzell, Chairman of the Board Northern Virginia Association of Realtors:** "The 2016 market is a dynamic situation, but I think all the indicators are

there for a positive year."

did not depress the overall sense of market health, since the two-day increase in the median DOM from 2014 is still an impressive 41 days less than the DOM high of 68 in 2008, and not far off the lowest DOM level recorded in the past decade of 15 days in 2013.

**SO WHAT DO THE EXPERTS** take from this plethora of information as they look to the 2016 market? NVAR CEO Ryan T. Conrad believes the positive trends will continue throughout the year. "Our region's sales pace last year reflected that there was homebuyer confidence," he stated in a recent NVAR press release, and "serious homebuyers will understand that their buying power will be strongest in the early part of the year" considering further expected rate hikes from the Federal Reserve.

Lasansky, with her 40 years of local experience, is looking at 2016 to be "as good, if not better, than 2015." Asked if she saw the current Wall Street woes as a challenge to the market, she replied the effect might just be the opposite. "With interest rates still so low, the volatility of the stock market might just steer people more toward real estate as the safer bet." Lasansky also feels that the recent easing of some of the regulations and requirements could make homebuying more of a possibility, especially for younger and first-time buyers.

Frizzell is equally positive about the 2016 outlook. "Millennials are starting to make the move," he stated. Several of his rental clients are now on the hunt for homes of their own.

Armed with the RBI data, his own expertise, and encouraging information provided from the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, Frizzell thinks that continued employment growth and a more balanced economy in the region might make 2016 "one of the best years ever."

Links to data and analysis by locale can be found on the NVAR website, [www.nvar.com](http://www.nvar.com). Readers interested in comprehensive data on the region including housing, job growth by sector and wages and more, can visit the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis website at [www.cra.gmu.edu](http://www.cra.gmu.edu).



**All That Snow!**

Jodi Aime sent us this photo of 'unhappy pups in Herndon.'





PHOTO BY TRACI J. BROOKS STUDIOS/COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE  
**Tamieka Chavis as Mary Swanson and John Stange as John Dodge in “Middletown” from NextStop Theatre from Jan. 14-Feb. 27.**

## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### ONGOING

**“Middletown”** by Will Eno. Jan. 14-Feb. 7. NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. In this quirky, modern companion to “Our Town,” residents of Middletown seek the meaning of suburban life. Encounter thought-provoking universal themes and a few personalities you may recognize from your own neighbors and friends. [www.NextStopTheatre.org](http://www.NextStopTheatre.org). 703-481-5930.

**Integral Tai Chi.** 12:30-2 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through March 30. Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon. Integral Tai Chi is a combination of traditional Chinese Tai Chi and Qi Kong. The movements come from both forms of practice, in addition to yoga movements in the warm up section. Students need to bring their own yoga mat, a towel and water. Free-\$5. 703-464-6200.

**Feldenkrais Floor Class.** 2:30-3:30 p.m. Jan. 12-Feb. 2. Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon. This gentle and precisely focused exercise method can improve range of motion, flexibility, coordination and balance, and reduce body pain. To participate, you must be able to get down to and back up from the floor easily and by yourself. For your comfort, please bring a towel and warm clothes or layers. Free-\$10. 703-464-6200.

**Threaded with Green Quilt Show.** Jan. 12-Feb. 14. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Display of talent, dedication and attention to detail from nineteen invited fiber artists. Every quilt in the show has an element of green. The exhibit features the challenge “There is a Season” from 12 fiber artists creating a quilt for each season. [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

**Frosty and Friends-Snowonderful News!** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Frosty the Snowman returns again this year, bringing our wintry family story time a blizzard of fun! Join us before he melts away. All ages. 703-689-2700.

**Meet me at the Movies.** 10 a.m. Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston. Reston Association presents “Bridge of Spies.” Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to

55+ . [ashleigh@reston.org](mailto:ashleigh@reston.org). [reston.org](http://reston.org). 703-435-6530.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 30

**Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series.** 7:30 p.m. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. East of Monroe plays. If you like bluegrass, both traditional and contemporary, with a touch of gospel, blues or jazz then this band is just who you are looking for.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 31

**Bluegrass-Goldheart.** 7 p.m. Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The three youthful but talented Gold sisters (Tori, Jocely and Shelby) bring their original songs and beautiful sister harmonies supported by their capable instrumental work. \$18, \$20. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/>.

**Groundhog’s Day Out.** 2 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Find out if groundhogs can really predict the weather. Visit a groundhog burrow, learn cool groundhog facts, enjoy games and make your own groundhog friend to take home. Dress for the weather, hot chocolate provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. All participants must pre-register. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/>.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 5

**Fall Registration St. Timothy’s Preschool.** 10 a.m. St. Timothy’s Preschool, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The pre-school offers half-day classes for three, four and five year olds, with an optional afternoon enrichment program. Please call the school or visit our website for more information. [www.sttimothypreschool.com](http://www.sttimothypreschool.com). 703-437-4767.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 6

**Annual Father Daughter Dance.** Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. This semi-formal event will include an evening of dancing, appetizers, drinks, a photo of the couple, and a keepsake. Daughter may be accompanied by an uncle, grandfather or a male guardian. \$50 per couple, \$25 additional daughter. Ages 3-12. [www.herndon-va.gov](http://www.herndon-va.gov).

# WINTER FUN GUIDE



PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

**Frying Pan Farm Park employee Catherine Vaughan shows Mandy, the farm’s pet rabbit during the information session at the park’s visitor center on Groundhog Day.**

Stay active by running some races, find out if we have six more weeks of winter (we hope not), or enjoy some s’mores by the campfire.

## Go

Will that cowardly groundhog get spooked by its own shadow and curse us with six more weeks of winter? Let us hope not. Find out at **Groundhog’s Day Out** on Sunday, Jan. 31 at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Find out if groundhogs can really predict the weather. Visit a groundhog burrow, learn cool groundhog facts, enjoy games and make your own groundhog friend to take home. Dress for the weather, hot chocolate provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Cost is \$8 and \$10. Pre-register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/>.

A cold and clear night provides the best view of the night sky. Warm up at **Winter Night-Time Campfire** at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. The campfire is on Saturday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. Discover the night sky through hands-on activities and storytelling. Families can come early and picnic or toast hotdogs. Bring a toasting stick, blanket and flashlight. S’mores provided. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Cost is \$8, \$10. Sign up at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax/>.

Meet the makers. No, not your Maker. The Maker Movement hears to the past, when people made stuff. The desire to make stuff is experiencing a resurgence.

At **NoVa Mini Maker Faire**, a collection of tech enthusiasts, engineers, woodworkers, artists and craftspeople will gather on Sunday, March 13 at Langston Hughes Middle School and South Lake High School. Children will have the opportunity to become makers themselves, so bring the whole family. Langston Hughes Middle School is located at 11401 Ridge Heights Road, Reston. South Lakes High School is located at 11400 South Lake Drive, Reston. For more information, visit <http://makerfairenova.com/>.

## Do

At the **Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion**, skaters get a chance to show off their figure 8s and their triple lutz triple flip combo. Not ready for the Olympics? Classes are offered to all skill levels that you’ll soon be gliding and spinning...or at least be able to stay upright. The rink is open daily and is located at 11900 Market St., Reston. For more information on rates, rentals and schedules, call 703-709-6300 or visit <http://www.restontowncenter.com/amenities/ice-skating/>.

Seniors, show us how it was and is done at the **Social Ballroom Dance** on Sunday, Feb. 7 at the Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon from 3 to 6 p.m. There will be a West Coast Swing lesson. Basic knowledge suggested. For more information, call 703-980-7793.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**At the first Ice Breaker 5K in 2015, Herndon branch manager Cheryl Shackleford (right) presents a \$100 gift card from Northwest Federal to Allison Boone.**



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**The Ice Skating Rink at Reston Town Center.**

For an Instagram-worthy Valentine’s Day, take a **Horse-Drawn Carriage Ride** at Reston Town Center. Your coach is at the ready from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 14, in front of Talbots, 11888 Market St., Reston. For more information, go to [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## See and Hear

Herndon sure loves bluegrass.

Frying Pan Farm Park holds its **Bluegrass Barn**. Performances by regional bluegrass bands are on Sundays starting at 6 p.m. Scheduled dates are Jan. 17, 31; Feb. 14; March 6, 20; and April 3. Cost is \$18, \$20, and \$128 for a season pass. Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road,

Town Center, 11911 Democracy Drive, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 or visit <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Take a tour of Herndon at the **Ice Breaker 5K**, which will be held on Sunday, March 13 at 7:45 a.m. The race begins at 200 Spring St., Herndon. Register at <http://www.active.com/herndon-va/running/distance-running-races/herndon-ice-breaker-5k-2016>.

Herndon. For tickets, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/>.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church presents its **Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series**. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$15, free for children 12 and younger. For a list of dates and performers, visit, <https://hclcbuegrass.wordpress.com/>. The church is located at 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon.

## Fitness

Fight that urge to just lay on the couch and Netflix-binge till it’s at least 50 degrees outside.

The **All-Comers’ Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running** meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at Reston



FEB 6<sup>TH</sup>

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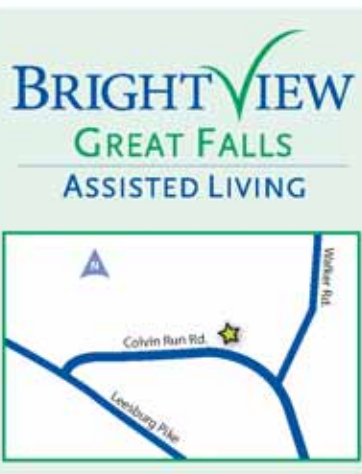
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*“At Brightview I still have my independence. I love everything here and I have everything that I need. My family is welcome anytime and the best part is they no longer worry about me.” – Sophia C.*



Please call Carolyn to schedule your personal visit.

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## SPORTS

# Snowstorm Q&A: Herndon's Bradley Snowed in with Best Friend

A snowstorm caused Fairfax County Public Schools to cancel classes and athletic events from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. Some areas received more than 20 inches of snow during the weekend, according to the National Weather Service, creating a break from competition for local high school athletes.

Herndon junior Alexa Bradley, the defending Conference 5 all-around gymnastics champion, shared her storm experience via email with The Connection.

Q: In what city do you live?

A: I live in Herndon.

Q: How did the amount of snowfall in your neighborhood compare to what you thought would fall?

A: I didn't doubt that we were going to be getting a big snow storm but didn't realize how much snow actually comes from a non-stop snowstorm for more than 24 hours. I've never seen so much snow in my life, so it was hard to imagine what to expect.

Q: What, if any, preparations did you and your family make for the storm?

A: We went grocery shopping before the snow started on Friday. I didn't want to be stuck in the house with my mom and a group of my brother's friends, so I prepared a four-day long suitcase and got snowed in with my best friend.

Q: What did you do to pass the time during the storm?

A: During the storm I watched a bunch of cool documentaries on Netflix, played board games with my friends, cooked and baked many good treats, napped, and did homework.

Q: Did you play in the snow? If so, what did you do?

A: When it started snowing I took a walk up the street. I wanted to build a snowman but didn't have any gloves so I haven't (as of Sunday night) been able to use my hands to make anything, but on my snow days I'm planning on building an igloo and snowman.

Q: Were you able to exercise/practice during the storm? If so, what did you do?

A: We have not been practicing at all since the snowstorm but I've been trying to stay stretched out so my body doesn't hurt too bad after I return to a regular practice schedule.

Q: The Conference 5 gymnastics meet is approaching (Feb. 3). At this point in the season, how do you feel you're performing?

A: I feel like I've had a slow start to this season taking more time to get my body back to the way it was when I ended last season, but trying my best.

Q: As the defending all-around champion, what are your expectations for this season?

A: My expectation for this season is to be beat my personal best and to keep moving forward and getting better in my skills.

— JON ROETMAN



Herndon gymnast Alexa Bradley, seen last season, is the defending Conference 5 all-around champion.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/ THE CONNECTION

# Snowstorm Q&A: South Lakes' Caloyannides Built an Igloo

A snowstorm caused Fairfax County Public Schools to cancel classes and athletic events from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. Some areas received more than 20 inches of snow during the weekend, according to the National Weather Service, creating a break from competition for local high school athletes.

South Lakes volleyball player Melody Caloyannides, who is committed to Virginia Tech, shared her storm experience via email with The Connection.

Q: In what city do you live?

A: Reston.

Q: How did the amount of snowfall in your neighborhood compare to what you thought would fall?

A: We accumulated around 28 inches, but due to drift there were spots as high as 33 inches. We expected 1-2 feet, but it was well over that.

Q: What, if any, preparations did you and your family make for the storm?

A: Like many families, we purchased salt, an extra shovel, and food for a little under a week of home meals. However, I did hear from a few families that generators were bought, as well.

Q: What did you do to pass the time during the storm?

A: The first day I spent mainly at home with my family, but after the first day I walked to visit friends. With water-resistant clothes, it was not too bad. The walk was definitely a workout though.

Q: Did you play in the snow? If so, what did you do?

A: Yes, I did play outside. A few friends and I went sledding and we also built an igloo since there was plenty of snow to do so.

Q: Do you play a winter sport at South Lakes?

A: No, I do not play a winter sport at South Lakes because I play volleyball all year; indoor volleyball during the school year, and sand volleyball during the summer.

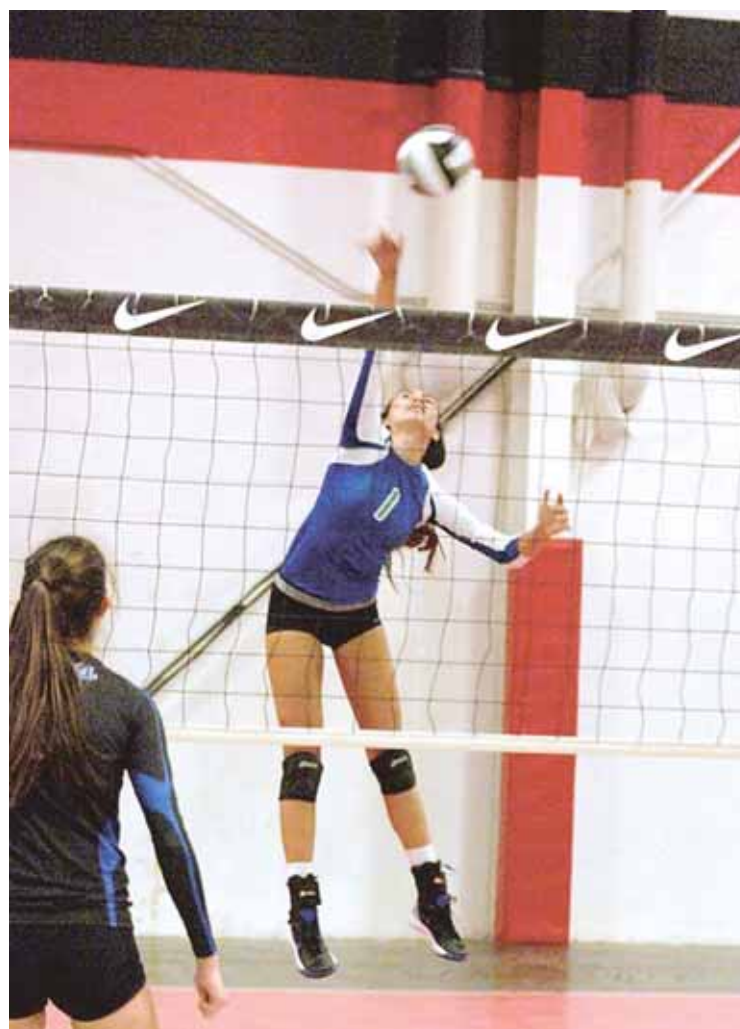
Q: Were you able to exercise/practice during the storm? If so, what did you do?

A: Unfortunately, no. We have had about a week off of practice and conditioning which has made preparing for a tournament this coming weekend a little difficult. However, every night we would complete our "homework," which would consist of an hour-long training program to stay in shape.

Q: What made Virginia Tech the right choice for you?

A: I have loved Tech since sophomore year, but was on and off because I wanted to research into more schools. I knew it was the school for me when I went on my third visit during the fall. Up until then, I had not visited since my sophomore year. The day I called the coach telling them I'm accepting their offer, I cried tears of joy like no other. It's an amazing feeling and I couldn't be happier to call myself a Hokie.

— JON ROETMAN



South Lakes senior Melody Caloyannides is committed to play volleyball at Virginia Tech.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/ THE CONNECTION



# HERNDON OUTLOOK

FROM PAGE 3

trict. Evergreene Homes is marketing its new development to promote its proximity to the Silver Line as well as being in historic Herndon.

See <http://myevergreenehome.com/>

## 6 Junction Square/Tradition Home

Monroe and Elden and Nachman Way Tradition Homes LLC began construction of three buildings, including five multifamily homes, 15 townhomes and 55,000 square feet of retail/residential space at the corner of Monroe and Elden streets. The Town Council approved the rezoning of the property in December 2014.

The retail will consist of 2,500 square feet of storefront units along Elden and a standalone building containing 3,000 square feet of office and retail at the corner of Lynn Street.

The W&OD trail runs alongside the site. Townhouses will range in size from 2,100 to 3,000 square feet. All homes will offer two-car garages and rooftop decks. Six of the townhouse-style condo units along Elden will contain elevators.

<http://builtbytradition.com/>

## 7 JLB - RZ 2013-DR-017

Dulles Technology Drive/River Birch Road JLB Dulles Tech plans to develop a 450-unit multi-family development on 11.6 acres. The site is approximately one half mile south of the planned Innovation Cen-

ter Metro Station on the south side of Dulles Technology Drive east of its intersection with River Birch Road, and is outside the Town of Herndon. The project was approved by the Board of Supervisors on July 28, 2015.

See <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4181075>.

## 8 Trinity Land, Woody's Golf Range

SE 2014-DR-052

11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon, VA 20170

In June, The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved Trinity Land's application for a special exception to build 30 single family units using a cluster development configuration on the 28.9 acre property formerly known as Woody's Golf range. The site is zoned R-1 (one dwelling unit per acre) and is located in the Dranesville Tavern Historic Overlay District.

"Woody's Golf Range is now closed. We want to thank you for letting us be part of such a wonderful community. We have loved serving our customers for over three decades, and we will always cherish the memories of our great customers. We hope that you will continue to keep up with us to see where we go next," according to Woody's website.

See <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMMain.aspx?cde=SE&seq=4192058> and <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4498561.PDF> for details.

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## "Your Blood Pressure is a Little High, Mr. Lourie"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



"You think? I'm a little nervous right now. I'm waiting for scan results from last week." (I mean, it's not as if my life depends on them or anything.) As much as my blood pressure, heart rate and temperature are vitally important, the CT Scan of my chest matters more. Although, I'm not so naive to think that those other readings couldn't indicate trouble/potential trouble. Nevertheless, I still feel, with the limited knowledge I have, that – and I don't want to get political here – my CT Scan trumps your vital signs. "If you need to get a reading, why don't you come back in 15 minutes after I've met with the doctor?"

Thankfully, the scan results were/continue to be, amazingly encouraging. When my oncologist came into the examining room where I was sitting and waiting – and trying to remain calm, with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance, he said, rather nonchalantly, that my "scan was great" and that I was his "miracle patient": surviving nearly seven years now since my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) diagnosis in late February, 2009. He then sat at the computer and asked me the standard questions about pain, headaches, stroke-like symptoms, the neuropathy in my feet, need to re-order any prescriptions, new or worsening symptoms; all of which I answered in a non-complicating way: "No. No. No." He typed in my responses and then suggested, while smiling, that we were negotiating. Not completely understanding his reference, I asked what he meant. And what he meant was, given my "miracle" status, the possibility of extending, yet again, the interval between my chemotherapy infusions, from four weeks to five (see column dated 11/25/15 entitled "All Four It") and extending as well my every-three-month CT Scan to every four or even six months and likewise extending the interval for my PET Scan to yearly. All of which sounded wonderful, but we were still "negotiating."

My oncologist's concern/goal/intention in these discussions is, and always has been, the quality of my life (after all, I do have cancer). And when I've had a particularly difficult post-chemo week, as I experienced most recently, and told him as much, he feels as if it's a week of my life that he's sort of taken away and won't be able to ever give back. Extending the intervals is his way of trying to get me more good weeks and/or increasing the length of time between bad weeks.

However, there are no protocols, clinical studies or history even, for him to consult to determine how best to treat me: "me" being a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patient who's alive, reasonably well and still undergoing treatment SEVEN YEARS after originally being "prognosed" to die within "13 months to two years." At this point, he said, it's more common sense and patient preference that dictates how we proceed.

Ergo, these conversations are all about me. My doctor makes suggestions/considerations and listens to my concerns (make that anxieties) and DOES NOT direct/push/control the outcome/decisions that are ultimately made. Together, we attempt to sort through my objections/assumptions/presumptions/misunderstandings, etc., to figure out a way forward that balances the quality of my life with the effectiveness of my treatment.

Unfortunately, there's no patient handbook – that I know of – called "Cancer for Dummies." If there were, perhaps I wouldn't mind navigating this minefield of life-altering, death-defying – hopefully – choices, that constantly present themselves. Then again, at least I'm still alive to have choices – and normal blood pressure, most of the time.

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

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21 Announcements

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PHOTO BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

The Reston Hospital Center was ready to treat patients despite the blizzard. John Deardorff, CEO, Reston Hospital Center thanked volunteers and surrounding community members who stepped up as volunteer drivers.

## Reston and Herndon Dig Out Of Blizzard

Blizzard limits transportation, volunteers and crews step up.

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

Government, schools and libraries were closed throughout Reston and Herndon as the area continued to shovel out the snow from blizzard Jonas. Reston Association events and meetings were canceled Monday, Jan. 25, as were programs with the Town of Herndon. Herndon Town Council's meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 26 was canceled, the next meeting will be the Feb. 2 work session. Fairfax County Public Schools and offices were closed Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 25 and 26, and school events and presentations have been rescheduled due to the weather.

**RESIDENTS** stocked up on supplies and groceries as they prepared for the snow. According to reports from meteorologists, the Reston-Herndon area received 28 inches of snow, Leesburg area 28-34 inches, and Ashburn 36 inches. Sunday, Jan. 24, the sky cleared, giving residents the opportunity to get out and begin clearing the roads and driveways. "I am glad there was no loss of electric power," said Herndon resident Susanna Patton. On Sunday, she and neighbor Jeff Sevilla brought their children to go sledding down a hill near Herndon Elementary school. Sevilla, a graduate of the Herndon High class of 1991, remembered when he went sledding as a child. "It was a lot of snow, yet it has been fun," said Sevilla.

Local delegates and officials alerted residents of the approaching snowfall, and provided updates of the snow removal. "Our Department of Public Work (DPW) crews are the heroes of the town," stated Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel. "They have been working 12 hour shifts, throughout the weekend and are still doing so. Some have slept in their offices at DPW to ensure they

could be here for their next shift... When you see our crews arrive in your neighborhoods, please thank them!" Fairfax County Fire and Rescue worked at an incident at Dulles Glen apartments complex in Herndon where a carbon monoxide leak forced an evacuation.

By Monday, Jan. 25, most sidewalks were clear at Reston Town Center, although some stores decided to stay closed for the day. Reston Hospital Center began preparing for Winter Storm Jonas earlier in the week, establishing a command center on Friday to ensure the highest level of care for patients. Reston Hospital thanks the surrounding community members who stepped up as volunteer drivers, allowing critical staff members to get to and from the hospital campus. Reston Hospital also thanks staff members who braved the weather to ensure the patients received the care they needed.

"On behalf of the entire administration, I'd like to thank those amazing staff members whose dedication made surviving Winter Storm Jonas possible. Without them, we couldn't provide the care our patients deserve. I'd also like to thank each of our volunteer drivers. Without their help, our essential staff members would have been delayed in providing necessary patient care. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful staff here and to be based in this great community where people truly care," said John Deardorff, CEO, Reston Hospital Center.

**MONDAY, FEB. 1**, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is hosting an information session on a proposed grid of streets within the Reston Transit Station Areas. The session will be at Lake Anne Elementary School, at the cafeteria at 11510 North Shore Drive. All community members are welcome to attend.

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