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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

**HOLIDAY
ENTERTAINMENT**
PAGE 8

Paul and Karen Novak of Herndon (far left) purchase their annual Christmas tree one more time at the 'Elvis Tree Lot,' corner of Elden and Center Streets in Herndon. Richie Smiechowski, 18, of Herndon holds his chain-saw while Michael Hum of Herndon and Suzanne Eaton, who operates the lot, enjoy the moment too.

Never Say Never; Elvis Lives Another Year!

NEWS, PAGE 9

**Townhouses
Become a Community**

NEWS, PAGE 3

**Time-Honored Home
Tour This Weekend**

NEWS, PAGE 12

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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Townhouses Become a Community

One woman's contributions makes a difference.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At the most recent Town of Herndon Town Council Public Session held Tuesday, Nov. 13, 2018, the Town of Herndon presented the '2018 Good Neighbor Award' to Sunny Howe for her selfless contributions and commitment to her neighbors and her community as one who goes beyond the call of duty and makes a neighborhood a better place to live. In a statement read during the town council public session Barbara Glakas, a member of the Town's Cultivating Community Initiative, which oversees the award, said the committee receives nominations for the annual award from citizens themselves, not members of the committee.

Glakas said Howe's neighbors told her Howe was one of the original members of the Spring Park Station neighborhood and has always been a strong force in the community both internally and serving on the HOA board. "Moreover, your neighbors tell me you reach out to so many people in multiple ways. You check on people who are sick and bring them food; you visit neighbors who are elderly and alone and



Friends, family and Herndon's Mayor, Lisa C. Merkel gather with the 2018 Good Neighbor Award recipient Sunny Howe after she receives her award. Howe acknowledged her husband's efforts for helping with the volunteer service and thanked the Town Council and the committee for their actions.

take them out to lunch and invite others to go along as well. You organize community projects such as the annual community cleanup day, and you perform a lot of the work yourself." Layna Cook, who nominated Howe for the Good Neighbor award,

shared some of the words she wrote when completing the Good Neighbor Nomination form. "Sunny facilitates connections between people, which helps foster community spirit and promotes the idea that we need to get to know and take care of our



Sunny Howe, recipient of the Town of Herndon 2018 Good Neighbor Award, gets a hug from Lisa C. Merkel Mayor of Herndon during the award presentation Tuesday, Nov. 13 during the Town Council Public Session.

neighbors. Spring Park Station would be just a group of townhouses that people live in and not a 'community' without Sunny Howe." After talking for a few moments about Howe, Cook paused and said, "Sunny is a bright light in the community."

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Making Space Not So Far Out of Reach

Herndon teen creates "The Nozzle Theory" video; in top 15 of 12,000.

By ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

The Space Race may be history, but Herndon teenager Jason Chen insists that rocket science is still universally important. For people who can't quite wrap their heads around rocketry, Chen — a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — created an award-worthy video to break down some of the concepts.

"Space just seems too far out of reach for so many people," Chen said. "It feels so far away and confusing, but if you break it down, it's truly fascinating. It's important to inspire people to get into aerospace, which I really believe is the future of humanity. We've explored the earth, so where do we go next? Up. My mission was to bring more light into the field, to show that the solar system and space isn't just for geniuses."

Chen's recent video about The Nozzle Theory proved award-worthy. He created it for the Fourth Annual Breakthrough Junior Challenge, an international com-



Jason Chen

petition for science aficionados between the ages of 13 and 18. Entrants were called to create compelling three-minute (or shorter) videos that both adequately demonstrated and simplified complex scientific concepts. More than 12,000 entered this year's con-

test and Chen was one of 15 finalists.

"I focused specifically on the nozzles of rocket engines," he said. "I thought this was the most interesting and the most visual part: if you've seen a rocket launch, then you've seen a nozzle. Maybe you just didn't

know what you were looking at. Then I went more into the mechanics of how burning a fuel in a controlled explosion can help generate enough thrust to help propel a ship into space."

The Breakthrough Prize Foundation hosts this challenge to honor both leading and up-and-coming scientists, to develop global interest in science, and to spark innovation. A panel of professionals hand-selected the Breakthrough Junior Challenge finalists, and the Foundation then posted the 15 shortlisted videos on YouTube and Facebook. The ultimate winner was then determined by popular vote.

ON NOV. 4, 16-year-old Samay Godika of Boston, Mass., was announced the winner for his video on circadian rhythms.

Getting as far as he did was in itself rewarding, said Chen. He's grateful he got wind of a competition that served as the catalyst for him to create something significant.

"This competition's goal from the start
SEE HERNDON TEEN, PAGE 10

OPINION

Call for Submissions to Children's Edition 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school

location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITORIAL

Bringing People in from the Cold

This year 36 churches will be host sites for the hypothermia program.

BY JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FACETS



Fifteen years ago, two Fairfax men froze to death during the fall. At the time, FACETS was a nonprofit that was primarily serving meals to the county's homeless in partnership with several churches. FACETS' leaders knew that feeding people only to send them back into the extreme cold was not a great answer for the growing number of people who were homeless in the community.

That winter FACETS responded by offering temporary shelter in conjunction with its partner churches, the Lamb Center, and Salvation Army to get people in from the cold. The first year, these hypothermia shelters rotated to several different churches and only opened when the temperatures dropped below freezing. Soon the centers were serving up to 60 people on cold nights.

The program has evolved as the region's population has grown. In 2006, FACETS worked on policies and procedures with the county and formally began managing central Fairfax's Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. This year 36 churches will be host sites for the program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

These faith community partners rotate when opening their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and preparing the space. Other volunteers are planning menus. Unique partnerships have formed as a result of the program as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and more join together to help the homeless and in the process learn about each other.

The effort also matured beyond just providing safe haven. Guests now receive life-changing

case management. By interacting with guests at the shelters, FACETS' case managers are able to address their needs in a very personal way by gaining their trust and connecting them with housing solutions and critical services. They also receive a variety of services from the county.

Last year 283 guests were given shelter from the biting cold. More than 3,800 people volunteered 33,000 hours last season to care for these guests who are homeless. By the end of season, 41 of these people had left homelessness behind and were housed.

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1. With the projected cold and forecasts of a very snowy winter season, demand is expected to grow.

To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

FACETS is a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Our Diversity

To the Editor:

I want to thank you for publishing the article about the Fairfax For All coalition's recent activities ("Advocating for Immigrant Protection").

As the daughter of two immigrants, immigration policy has al-

ways been important to me — especially as the debate over deportation and ICE has escalated. My parents were fortunate enough to be able to immigrate legally, and have been citizens for about 10 years, but in examining the data I've come to see that that's most likely to do with the fact that they are white and had college degrees. Our town is so beautifully diverse,

and I believe that we're losing an important part of our culture when immigrants are scared to participate in the community for fear of deportation.

If what Fairfax For All says is true, then there is an entire group of people in our town who are being excluded from important decisions, prevented from seeking medical attention, and afraid to participate

in the community — all out of fear. I'm learning just how important these relationships to the community, or social ties, are. They allow individuals a sense of purpose and help them to feel assimilated into this community that we like to profess as being so diverse.

Emma Steinhobel
Herndon

Oak Hill & Herndon
CONNECTION

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Herndon High School Theatre Presents 'She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition'

Herndon High School Theatre presents "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition," by Qui Nguyen, a contemporary dramatic comedy centered around Agnes Evans, a high schooler who is longing to learn more about her recently-deceased sister, Tilly. Soon after discovering Tilly's Dungeons and Dragons notebook, Agnes finds herself propelled into a fantastical adventure complete with ominous ogres and blood-thirsty fairies, and she learns more about Tilly than she ever could have imagined. Celebrate your "inner nerd" and discover why audiences are talking about this action-packed story of grief, discovery, and acceptance.

Parental guidance recommended — contains adult humor and language, violence, and mature themes.

Performance Dates: Friday, Dec. 7, 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8, 7-9 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 9, 2-4 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 14, 7-9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 15, 7-9 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 16, 2-4 p.m.

Performance Location: Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett Street,

Herndon. Park in the front and enter through door #11, or park to the side and enter through door #10.

Tickets & Information: \$9/student and \$12/adult in advance Online at www.HerndonDrama.org \$10/student and \$15/adult at Box Office



Fairfax Water

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2019, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,150 to \$4,260¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$13,420 to \$15,285.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,260 to \$1,300¹.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.94 to \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than a standard 5/8" residential meter¹.
6. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$45 to \$48.
7. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
8. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$36 to \$38.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019¹. Revenues are expected to be \$183.2 million in 2019. Water sales are expected to provide \$158.3 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	— \$1,000s —	
	2018	2019
Personal Services and Employee Benefits	\$ 55,934	\$ 57,584
Power and Utilities	10,755	11,102
Chemicals	6,958	7,532
Purchased Water	7,810	7,155
Supplies and Materials	5,261	5,444
Insurance	955	1,075
Fuel	700	728
Postage	603	612
Contractual Services	12,481	12,974
Professional Services	1,001	1,065
Other	2,428	2,505
Sub-Total	104,886	107,776
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,248)	(10,380)
Total	\$ 94,638	\$ 97,396

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,988,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,337,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

Tell us what you think

submit your Letter to the Editor to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

'Touch Lives and Make a Difference'

Ethics Day 2018: A 26-year partnership between South Lakes High School and Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

“It’s a great day when our business community comes together to support students with real-world challenges and the opportunity to apply collaboration and communication skills,” said Kim Retzer, South Lakes High School principal, as she stood in the hallway of the Sheraton Reston hotel on Monday, Nov. 19, 2018. For the 26th year in a row, the senior class of South Lakes High School in Reston participated in the Ethics Day program, presented in a 26-year partnership between the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and South Lakes High School.

Mark S. Ingrao, CCP CAE, President & CEO Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce explained a bit about the program. “The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce is the first Chamber in the Northern Virginia area to develop a program that engages our future leaders in ethical decision making and provide our members an opportunity to facilitate discussions with these young men and women. ...This ethical discourse challenges our youth and encourages our volunteers.”

Dressed in business attire, students and volunteer table leaders from the local business community visited four module rooms. There facilitators, and if needed actors, presented an event, scenario or video to the students meant to depict what they as young adults might face in the future. Given it may not precisely be the same, it would give students the opportunity to examine their own biases and how they might play a role in decision-making.

ONE MODULE was the Organ Donation Room, which offered students the scenario where five actors, portraying end-stage heart failure patients, presented their cases to receive the one available heart that came available at Reston Hospital. Facilitators, Nancy Susco and Tony Barnett of Reston Hospital Center cautioned students not to be swayed by emotion or promises.

After hearing the patients’ pleas, the students at each table discussed their thoughts and values, practiced active listening and attempted to reach a consensus naming one recipient. Students had to agree unanimously on who should get the heart, yet as individuals and a committee be able to defend the choice. While table leaders including Eileen McNally, Leidos, and Joe Becker, Not Your Average Joe’s, facilitated student conversation through active listening, questions, and drawing students out, they were not to be opinion-givers, stated information in a Leader handout.

In the Courtroom Dilemma, Facilitator Laura Kowalski, Reston Association, informed the students they had been ‘se-



Center back, Judge Glenn L. Clayton II, takes an acting role as a judge during the ‘Organ Donation Room’ scenario presented during Ethics Day 2018 at South Lakes High School in Reston. Also pictured (left) Ken Chadwick, Esq. and (right) Matt Cleary III, Law Offices of Mathew A. Clary III, PC.



Glenn L. Clayton II, Judge, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Fairfax County Courthouse listens to a student spokesperson defending his table’s decision during Ethics Day 2018, a partnership between Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and South Lakes High School.



South Lakes High School students discuss the dilemma in an organ donation during Ethics Day 2018, a program presented as a partnership between Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce and South Lakes High School.

lected to serve on a jury’ in Fairfax County Circuit Court. She said what they were about to see and hear was based on a real courtroom record of Involuntary Manslaughter. Kowalski commenced telling the “jury” the student who died reportedly had been drinking heavily at a party and was killed as a passenger in her own car when

her friend, who allegedly had not been drinking and did not have a license, attempted to drive her home. After hearing from actor witnesses and attorneys, such as Ken Chadwick, Esq., Matt Cleary III and Judge Glenn Clayton, each jury table had to reach a unanimous verdict of guilty or not guilty.

DURING THE LUNCH BREAK, students lingered in the hallway. Earlier, the Chamber had instructed the Connection not to identify students by name but permitted comments and photos.

In an interview, one student reflected on Ethics Day. “I think today really opened my eyes to a lot of decisions I would never have thought of if I hadn’t experienced them firsthand today,” he said.

“These seniors represent our future; we should all be willing to do whatever we can to prepare them to make good decisions. I often tell folks appearing before me that, ‘Life is full of choices,’ and it is programs like this that will help them to ‘choose wisely’ in the future. Some timely advice, especially in light of current events,” wrote Glenn L. Clayton II, Judge, Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Fairfax County Courthouse.

“There are so many challenging decisions we all face every day, and this event has given every student who has been a senior at SLHS exposure to these types of difficult scenarios which they may face. It gives them the tools and experience to draw upon to make better ethical decisions,” said Ethics Day Actor Juliana Carter, Tailored Living COO, who responded to a request on her perspective of the day.

Asked why the business community was producing the event, Ingrao, said, “The business community should be the one putting on Ethics Day. The business community is about ethics.”



Meredith and Shaw Mostashari of Great Falls are proud of their son Hudson, 10, a young philanthropist in his own right. Hudson decided he would forfeit birthday gifts and instead ask his friends and family to make donations for the purchase of food and supplies for the homeless living on the streets in Washington D.C.

PHOTO BY
MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

Leading by Example

Great Falls boy inspires others to be kind and socially conscious.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A certain young boy didn't know the word "philanthropy" during a recent interview with the Connection, but he knew the importance of caring, generosity and accomplishing things through his actions.

Hudson Mostashari of Great Falls recently celebrated his tenth birthday. He asked for no gifts. Mostashari did invite eight friends to celebrate the day with him, but instead of giving him gifts, he asked if they'd make a monetary gift contribution to buy food for the homeless in Washington D.C.

Although Mostashari's friends were somewhat shocked at the request, they all went along with it. His mother Meredith Mostashari arranged for the anticipated funds to be donated directly to the Barbera Foundation in Reston.

Hudson Mostashari raised approximately \$200 through his no-gifts for me, food for the homeless birthday campaign, said his mother.

"It is very impressive that Hudson, a 10-year-old, thought about others on his birthday, a day when most of us think about ourselves," said Kevin Barbera, Barbera Foundation, CEO & Founder. "Hudson has inspired me and many others to be more engaged in charitable efforts to change our

community for the better."

Mostashari hinted he got the beginnings of the no gift birthday when he and his parents helped fellow volunteers for the Barbera Foundation sort school supplies for underprivileged children this fall. His actions made a difference, and it made him happy too.

Mostashari told how he also attends the Leadership Training Program led by Fr Andrew Gronotte, LC. Mostashari said he and his family planned to join Gronotte and Fr Michael Sliney at the Thanksgiving/Christ the King Family Mission in Washington D.C. to help support the homeless. Together they would hand out pizza to the homeless living on Pennsylvania Avenue. Asked in the interview if he would have a slice of pizza, Mostashari looked surprised and said no. That would mean a homeless person wouldn't get it and that person would be hungry.

"Hudson is doing a great job living out the virtues that we are trained to teach him in the LTP program. Not only are his actions effective to those he directly comes in contact with but also with the people looking in from the outside," wrote Fr Andrew Gronotte in an email to the Connection.

"I am very impressed with Hudson's actions," Gronotte added. "I hope many others can follow the path that he is paving."

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MORE FEATURES

Gridiron Sandwich	Short Rib Grilled Cheese
Grilled Meatloaf Sandwich	Winter Spinach Salad
The Impossible™ Burger	House-Baked Salted Caramel Cookie

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: BLUE. Through Saturday, Dec. 1 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. The painters who have called ArtSpace their weekly studio home for several years, have resolved to have a common theme to tie their work together and have decided to focus on color as inspired by Color Field Theory. The theme of the show therefore will be “Blue” which also leaves room for individual interpretation which might include: mood, music such as “Blues”, and reflection. The interaction of the color blue with other colors in line, shape, and pattern will also be exhibited. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Girl Power! Book Club. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Readers between the ages of 10-12 are invited to join author Katherine Marsh, for a discussion of her new novel, *Nowhere Boy*. Free. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Jingle on the Lake. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Lake Anne Plaza. Enjoy making an ornament, decorating a cookie, the Lake Anne ES choir and holiday music. Santa and his elves arrive by boat and paddle board at noon. Children can have their photo taken with Santa – he stays until every little child receives their turn. Call 703-582-6475.

Holiday Artisan Market. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. As part of the Homes Tour in Herndon ArtSpace Herndon presents some of the area's finest Artisans. Bring that holiday shopping list. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tour Herndon homes decorated for the holidays. Tickets available online at www.herndon-va.gov/homestour until Nov. 30, or in person at the Herndon Florist, 716 Lynn St. and Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. \$15 in advance through Nov. 25, \$20 starting Nov. 26 Call 703-435-6800, ext. 2222 or visit www.facebook.com/holidayhomestour.

Holiday Story Hour. 11 a.m.-noon at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Best-selling children's authors Sue Fliess and Lezlie Evans team up for a super holiday story hour. Sue will read from her new book, *Mrs. Claus Takes the Reins*; while Lezlie reads from her heartwarming book *Finding Christmas*, and leads a holiday craft. All are welcome. Free. Call 703-966-2111 or visit www.scrawlbooks.com.

Children's Winter Wonderland. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at North County Governmental Center, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will host its 3rd Annual Children's Winter Wonderland. Children will enjoy crafts, face painting, holiday letter writing, games, sweet treats and more. Santa is also scheduled to stop by for Story time. This event is free and open to the public. Visit fcacdst.org or email info@fcacdst.org.

Winter Holiday Open House. 12:30-4:30 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. ArtSpace Herndon will provide free



Herndon Holiday Arts and Crafts Show

Over 90 artisans and craftspeople will exhibit and sell their work at this annual arts and crafts show sponsored by the Town of Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation. A variety of handcrafted items and fine art will be on sale including wreaths, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, decorations, original artwork, photography, stained glass, and more. Sunday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Free admission and parking. Additional parking at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/holiday-arts-and-crafts-show for more.

crafts and entertainment for the Herndon Fortnightly Winter Holiday Open House. Visit for music, children's crafts, light refreshments, and a visit with Santa. All ages. Free. Call 703-437-8855 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/herndon-fortnightly.

Mystery Author Extravaganza. at 1 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Authors from the Chesapeake Chapter of Sisters in Crime will present their 2018 novels and short stories. Books will be available for sale and signing. Seating is limited. Adults. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Holiday Performance – The Grinch. 1-1:30 p.m. at Fountain Square at Reston Town Center. Enjoy the Rhythm Street Dance Center singing and dancing their way through the holiday classic. Meet the performers after the show, including the Grinch. Visit restontowncenter.com/events.

The Wonder of the Season. 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Experience The Wonder of the Season with musical offerings from The Reston Chorale, members of Washington Symphonic Brass and tenor Timothy King. A musical holiday treat for the entire family, featuring popular favorites and timeless treasures. Tickets at www.RestonChorale.org or 703-476-4500, ext. 3.

Holiday Tree Lighting & Sing-along. 5-6 p.m. at the corner of Lynn and Elden streets. Carols, tree lighting and a visit from Santa. Free. Call 571-323-5304 or visit www.dullesregionalchamber.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Run with Santa 5K. 8:30 a.m., at Fountain Square at Reston Town Center. Jump into the season's spirit and wear favorite holiday gear or costume. Free kids fun-run with finisher medals. Presented by Potomac River Running. Call 703-689-0999 or visit praces.com/runwithsanta.

Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Over 90 artisans and craftspeople will exhibit and sell their work at this annual arts and crafts show sponsored by the Town of Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation. A variety of handcrafted items and fine art will be on sale including wreaths, jewelry, Christmas ornaments, decorations, original artwork, photography, stained glass, and more. Free admission and

parking. Additional parking at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Visit www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/holiday-arts-and-crafts-show.

David Baldacci: Author Talk & Book Signing. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Reston Regional Library is partnering with Bards Alley bookstore to host NewYork Times bestselling author David Baldacci for an author talk and book signing. Baldacci introduces his newest series character, FBI Special Agent Atlee Pine, in *Long Road To Mercy*. Copies may be pre-ordered online from Bards Alley or by calling 571-459-2653. David Baldacci books will be available for purchase at the event. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov to register.

MONDAY/DEC. 3

Family Code Night. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A family event that dramatically ignites coding and computer science learning. Parents and guardians pair up with their children to learn coding basics in a fun, supporting, and engaging environment. No coding experience necessary. Ages 5-11. Free. Register at 703-689-2700 or librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/DEC. 4

Storytime for Three to Fives. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. An early literacy program with stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Spanchats. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join an ongoing monthly Spanish conversation group. All levels from beginner to fluent are welcome. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Reston Sings! Handel's Messiah. 7:30-9 p.m. at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston. Join in singing G.F. Handel's *Messiah*, with Guest Conductor Luke Frazier and Organist and Artistic Director David B. Lang, and Guest Soloists Madeline Kushan, James M. Brown, Allan Palacios Chan and Kevin Frey. Reception to follow. Individuals who bring a new or gently used coat to benefit Cornerstones' Coat Closet will receive a \$5 discount on admission. \$10-\$15. Tickets at www.RestonChorale.org.



DEC. 4-JAN. 5

Photography Exhibit: “National Parks and National Treasures.” Gallery hours at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Photographer Jim Schlett, selected as the Artist-In-Resident (AIR) at four locations of the National Park Service in 2018, will be having a solo exhibition called “National Parks and National Treasures.” Visit www.artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

Holiday Open House. 4-6 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Join Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, staff, neighbors and friends for a cup of holiday cheer and a nibble of seasonal treats at the Hunter Mill Holiday Open House. Bring a non-perishable food item that will go to local food pantries. RSVP to huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-478-0283.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 5-9

Conservatory Ballet's The Nutcracker. Full-length and abbreviated versions, various times at CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Based on the beloved performances by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, Conservatory Ballet's all-children's cast performs *The Nutcracker*, including three Young Children's Matinee performances for aspiring dancers. \$17-25. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 6-9

Holiday Book Sale. Thursday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-3:30 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Start shopping early with the Reston Friends Holiday Book Sale; browse and buy lots of gift-quality books. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

Santa, Stars, & S'mores. 6-7:30 p.m. at Runnymede Park. Follow the luminaries to the campfire and Santa. He'll be here to chat with each child, plus storytelling and holiday music. Dress for the outdoors. S'more kits available for sale. In case of inclement weather, event will be held Sunday, Dec. 9 at same time (call 703-435-6866). Free. Call 703-787-7300 or visit www.herndon-va.gov/events to register.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-9

“She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurers Edition.” Friday-Saturday, 7-9 p.m.; Sunday, 2-4 p.m. in the Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. Herndon High presents a contemporary dramatic comedy centered around Agnes Evans, a high schooler who is longing to learn more about her recently-deceased sister, Tilly. Soon after discovering Tilly's *Dungeons and Dragons* notebook, Agnes finds herself propelled into a fantastical adventure complete with ominous ogres and bloodthirsty fairies. Parental guidance recommended—contains adult humor and language, violence, and mature themes. \$9, student; \$12, adult at HerndonDrama.org or \$10-\$15 at the box office.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Sing! Books With Miss Emily. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join Miss Emily for singing storytime with illustrated songs. Cosponsored by the FRRL Age 2-5 with adult. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Irish Dance. Noon at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Dancers with the Foley Academy of Irish Dance will give a dance performance and lesson. All ages. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Opening Reception: “National Parks and National Treasures.” 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Photographer Jim Schlett, selected as the Artist-In-Resident (AIR) at four locations of the National Park Service in 2018, will be having a solo exhibition called “National Parks and National Treasures.” Light refreshments served. Visit artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

“A Kosher Christmas Cabaret.” 8 p.m. at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Funny and heartfelt songs and stories celebrating Jewish life and culture. Tickets: \$25; group (8+) discounts available. Call 866-811-4111 or visit nextstoptheatre.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 8-9

Holiday Model Train Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. Holiday Model train show and the W&OD caboose and Depot Museum will also be open for tours. Free. Call 703-437-5556.

Never say Never; Elvis Lives Another Year!

Suzanne Eaton Christmas Trees return to Herndon.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

It looks like Elvis can buy his Christmas tree in the Town of Herndon after all this year. When it became obvious that Comstock Herndon Venture and the Town of Herndon would not be ready to sign final documents on the Downtown Redevelopment Project by year's end, the Herndon Town Council approved an ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the Town and Suzanne M. Eaton for the temporary use of the undeveloped Town-owned lot at the intersection of Center and Elden Streets for seasonal tree sales.

At that time, Eaton said, "We are thrilled to be at the town's Elden Street location one more year. Town Manager Bill Ashton has been so gracious with his time and efforts to arrange the lot for us this year...(We) look forward to seeing our old friends and longtime Herndon customers."

A few days before Thanksgiving, the Eaton family arrived with their little gray trailer and supplies. Up went wooden tree stands. Up went the strings of lights. Up went the Christmas trees. And finally, up went the famous sign, "Elvis buys his Christmas tree here every year." Although it rained heavily all Saturday, Paul and Karen Novak of Herndon arrived Sunday. After walking the lot for a bit, they settle on



Paul and Karen Novak of Herndon (far left) purchase their annual Christmas tree one more time at the 'Elvis Tree Lot,' corner of Elden and Center Streets in Herndon. Richie Smiechowski, 18, of Herndon holds his chainsaw while Michael Hum of Herndon and Suzanne Eaton, who operates the lot, enjoy the moment too.

a small tree. Lot attendant, Richie Smiechowski, 18, of Herndon who has worked at the tree lot for years, picked up his chainsaw and deftly trimmed tree's stump for the Novaks.

"Elvis lives," cried Paul Novak. Then off he went, a smile on his face and tree in his arms.

By MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Park Authority will begin maintenance work on the existing trail in Sugarland Run Stream Valley Park in Herndon.

Map of Trails in Sugarland Run Stream Valley Park depicting proposed Trail maintenance, existing trails and potential maintenance access points.

Sugarland Run Stream Valley Park Gets Facelift

Exercise enthusiasts and dog walkers who use the trails in Sugarland Run Stream Valley Park in Herndon should be pleased: Fairfax County Park Authority recently announced maintenance work will begin on the existing trail.

"The contractor, Tibbs Paving, Inc., will be mobilizing on site ... The mill and paving of approximately 12,000 linear feet of existing asphalt trail is planned," states Fairfax County on its website.

Contingent upon the weather, the project will

continue for approximately six months with completion anticipated spring 2019. The county cautions that residents should expect occasional traffic at the noted maintenance access points, and sections of the existing trail will be closed to users during the project. For more information, contact Project Manager Ed Deleon at eduardo.deleon@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-9569.

— MERCIA HOBSON

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News

Herndon Teen Creates Award-worthy Video

FROM PAGE 3

was to share the excitement for STEM and urge those all around the world to share their ideas," Chen said. "Even if I, and the thousands of my peers, weren't selected as the final winner, it doesn't detract from the amazing things that we've all learned and accomplished. Just participating was one of the greatest experiences of my life, and I can give nothing but my deepest congratulations to Samay. His video was outstanding I think his award was well deserved. Plus, there's always next year."

Chen may have been astounded, but, people familiar with him weren't surprised.

"I'm not at all surprised about how well Jason has done though this competition," said Jon Baker, who was Chen's 7th grade History teacher at Rachel Carson Middle School in Herndon. "I'm sure there are many talented young people participating, but I can say with confidence that none of them are the equal of Jason Chen. During the year we were together, Jason stood out among his peers immediately even though he was on a team with many other high achieving, academically talented students. He is simply head and shoulders above the rest, and one of those people you meet just once in a lifetime — and maybe not even then."

Jason's passion for this particular field of science shows no sign of waning. Space first captured Chen's interest long before he started taking formal science classes in school.

"I remember being little and in a hotel room in Atlanta with my family one night," he said. "We'd been to the aquarium that day, which I'd found really interesting. Then, as we were watching TV, a channel came on about how the universe worked — physics and astrophysics broken down for the everyday Joe. It's the first time I remember wanting to be an astrophysicist. Then, soon after, when my dad bought me a book about the nine planets, I just couldn't get enough."

While many don't think too much about what lies beyond earth, Chen can't help but think about all there is to explore out there.

"One of the things that catches me is that we are so bogged down by what's happening in our lives," Chen said, "but, half our view is the sky, which is immensely vast. You can see light-years into the past just by looking at the stars."

As a TJHSST student, Chen has been able to dip his feet into a few different areas of science and technology. Still, he said, there's just something about rocket science.

"Right now, I'm taking Chemistry and Computer Science (CS)," he said. "CS has a certain allure at TJ, which makes sense because it's always good to have a CS background. In my experience with CS, though, it's easy to grasp the basics, but hard to master. At TJ, we get an entire period every day to go to clubs. I belong to the Aerospace Club, where we do UAV [coding for drones]. That's really applicable to rocketry because coding is required for a lot of satellites."

Chen is only at the start of his journey of scientific pursuits so, for now, Chen said his work for the Breakthrough Junior Challenge is his greatest scientific achievement.

"I submitted the video in late June, and then I



Jason Chen

was immediately thrust into a summer class that was really grinding and burdened my brain," Chen said. "I'd kind of forgotten about it until I saw I made the first cut, so I got so excited even though I knew I had to overcome 29 other great videos. Then, it was the beginning of the school year when they announced the second round of finalists. Even though it was a school day, I refreshed the Finalist page again and again and at exactly 2:20 p.m., I saw my name on the list of the final 15, and I really couldn't believe it. Because of it, there have been astronauts watching my videos. That's what is so unreal to me; all the amazing people who have seen my video is just incredible to me."

It may not take a rocket scientist to display kindness, but, a touch of empathy will propel anyone — even a genius — further than merit alone. Baker, the Rachel Carson teacher, said that's yet another reason that Chen is a likely candidate to change the world.

"Jason is genuinely concerned about the welfare of America, and about the welfare of our entire planet," Baker said. "These are qualities always deserving of praise, but never more so than at this time and place in our nation's history. I see an extremely bright future for Jason. Whether that be in the public eye or behind the scenes remains to be seen, but I think he's going to make a real difference in this world. He once told me he hopes to be a part of the first manned mission to Mars during the next decade, whether it be as an astronaut or a contributor on the ground. I have no doubt he can make this dream a reality."

CHEN INTENDS to explore as much of space as he can.

"I've already basically laid out what I want to do, and that would essentially be aerospace engineering," Chen said. "I see it like, the theorists come up with the theories, but the engineers are the people who really bring it back to people — the ones who have us using the technology. I'd love to work for a company that drives innovation, and of course I'd love to get up into space. I don't know why you wouldn't want to go into space. So, ideally, I'll be an engineer and NASA will bring me on board because of my engineering skills and contributions."

Correction

In a November 21-27 issue of the Oak Hill/Herndon Connection - in a story titled "Caring Community" - there was an incorrect date for the

Wreaths Across America Remembrance Ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. The correct date is Saturday, Dec. 15.

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

HOLIDAY DONATIONS

Food for Fines. Through Nov. 30. Fairfax County Public Library will be hosting a food drive called "Food for Fines."

Canned goods and other non-perishable items collected during the drive will be donated to Food for Others, a not-for-profit food pantry and food rescue operation that serves Fairfax County.

Each item donated will erase \$1 from a patron's overdue fines up to a maximum of \$15. Customers may donate even if there are no fines accrued. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/food-fines for more.

Toys for Tots Drive. Thursday, Nov. 29-Friday, Dec. 7. U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's annual campaign, donations of unwrapped toys are being collected in Reston Town Center building lobby boxes until their Donation Day event on Friday, Dec. 7. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

Blanket and Coat Drive. Through Dec. 8. Organized by NOVA Relief Center, blankets and coats will be sent to refugees in three camps in Jordan this winter.

Blankets and coats should be new or gently worn. Monetary donations are also needed and may be made to NOVA Relief Center online and at some drop-off locations. For drop-off sites or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit novareliefcenr.org.

Toys for Tots Drive. Through Dec. 10. Area Sheehy Auto Stores will collect new and unwrapped toys to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. Sheehy's Toys for Tots drop-off locations include:

- ❖ Sheehy INFINITI of Chantilly, 4145 Auto Park Circle, Chantilly

Toys for Tots Drop Off. Through Dec. 12 at National Realty, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Stop by any weekday from 9-4 and drop a new, unwrapped toy in the donation box in the lobby. All toys will be distributed to needy children within Loudoun County and to Herndon & Reston children via the non-profit Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. Toys should be for the ages of newborn to 16. Call 571-205-8874 for more.

Toy Drive. Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find a local office, go to www.weichert.com/offices/.

THROUGH DECEMBER

White House Ornaments. Assistance League of Northern Virginia has begun its annual fundraising sale of White House Ornaments. The 2018 ornament honors Harry S. Truman, highlighting changes made to the White House during his administration. One side features the Truman Balcony and the reverse features the Blue Room.

Assistance League is an all volunteer, non-profit organization. Proceeds benefit our community-based programs that support local low income children. \$22 (+ shipping if mail delivery required). Email burgessgl@verizon.net or visit www.alnv.org.

DONATION REQUEST

Support Reston Historic Trust & Museum. The Reston Historic Trust & Museum has launched a GoFundMe campaign with the goal to raise \$15,000 to go towards the repair, cleaning, and reinstallation of icons on the façade of the former Lakeside Pharmacy, an original Lake Anne Plaza store, in a new permanent exhibit.

The new exhibit will be unveiled during Reston's annual Founder's Day event, April 6th, 2019. Read more about their history and donate at www.gofundme.com/preserve-lakeside-pharmacy-icons to assist in their preservation. Thank you for your help!

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Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickies (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall – outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family – which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. – for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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



Herndon Home Tour - 724 Grace Street



Herndon Home Tour - 1005 Grant Street



Herndon Home Tour - 777 Third Street

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Time-Honored Home Tour This Weekend

Stroll through historic, renovated and new homes decked out for holidays.

The time-honored and much-anticipated Herndon Homes Tour, a tradition debuted in 1979, allows the public an opportunity to experience firsthand some of the Town of Herndon's most festive homes decorated for the holidays, many located in the Historic District.

As in years past, we have a mix of old and new homes, including a Craftsman bungalow, a historic Victorian home and a newly built modern Cape Cod. Additionally, the bonus home was built in the late 1800s and has recently been completely remodeled.

The tour will also include a rest stop at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, featuring region-

ally-produced fine art and artisan works for sale, performances by holiday carolers and coffee and cookies.

Members of the Homes Tour Committee select the homes to be featured on the tour; however, requests from members of the public to have your home featured on the tour are welcomed and encouraged. The committee can be reached by emailing holidayhometourherndon@gmail.com.

Proceeds from the tour support the many Herndon civic organization whose participation allows the Homes Tour to occur.

The organizations include the Order of the Eastern Star, Herndon Historical Society, Herndon Woman's Club, Herndon Fort-



Herndon Home Tour - 641 Oak Street



Herndon Home Tour - 1014 Van Buren Street

nightly Club and Rotary Club of Herndon.

Homes are located at 1005 Grant, 1014 Van Buren, 777 Third,

724 Grace, and 641 Oak Streets plus a Bonus Home at 751 Quincy Street. Ticket Prices are \$20 and available at Herndon Florist, 716

Lynn Street (cash or check) and Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Avenue (cash, check and credit).

Ellmore House Curator Applications Open

The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, March 14, 2019.

Another park property has become available through the Resident Curator Program. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is now accepting applications for the rehabilitation and long-term maintenance of the historic Ellmore Farmhouse in Frying Pan Park, at 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon.

The Resident Curator Program provides opportunity for individuals and organizations to secure long-term lease agreements in beautiful public park settings. The curator leases are without charge in exchange for a financial commitment and approved rehabilitation of the Park Authority's underutilized historic properties. The deadline for submitting applications for the Ellmore Farmhouse is Thursday, March 14, 2019.

The Ellmore Farmhouse is a two-story, 3,300-square-foot vernacular farmhouse constructed principally of yellow pine in 1891 for Mrs. Mary W. Ellmore and her two children. Members of the Ellmore



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

The Resident Curator Program provides long-term leases without charge in exchange for a financial commitment and approved rehabilitation of the Park Authority's underutilized historic properties, such as the Ellmore Farmhouse at Frying Pan Park.

family occupied the property for more than 50 years, operating a productive dairy farm there through 1945 when the property was sold. The successive owners continued to operate a dairy farm until selling the farm in 1954. In February 2001, the Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the property for inclusion in Frying Pan Farm Park.

William Ellmore, who ran the property as a dairy farm, was a prominent local politician, serving on several boards including the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors until his death in 1935. The house sits at the entrance of one of Fairfax County's busiest parks, Frying Pan Farm Park, which preserves and interprets a 1920s through 1950s farm, agricultural process, rural community life and landscape with working farm demonstrations.

The Ellmore farmhouse is listed as a contributing structure within the Floris Historic District. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register on Aug. 12,

2010, by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. In addition, the Ellmore farmhouse is a contributing structure within the Floris Historic District on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

To identify potential lessees in the Resident Curator Program, FCPA is seeking proposals for the rehabilitation of Ellmore Farmhouse property. Curators will be determined through an open and competitive process, based on a number of criteria, including a formal proposal, demonstrated experience and competency in historic preservation techniques, financial capabilities, and the incorporation of public benefits. Complete application forms and additional information can be found at Resident Curator Program, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program.

For more information contact Stephanie Langton, Manager, Resident Curator Program at 703-324-8791.