Reston's founder Robert E. Simon featured in the two-hour-long parade Friday, Nov. 28.

Dancing In the Holidays

Civic organizations, youth clubs and businesses from throughout Northern Virginia paraded down Reston Town Center’s Market Street Friday morning, Nov. 28, in the 18th Annual Reston Holiday Parade. Some of Reston’s favorite entertainers and organizations — the South Lakes Marching Band, the Langston Hughes cheerleaders and Herndon-Reston FISH amongst them — took part in the two-hour-long parade. Macy’s-style balloons also paraded down Market Street as did The Hogettes — male Washington Redskins fans who wear women’s clothing — and area Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts groups. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their way down the street in a horse-drawn carriage to bring the parade to an end.

— Mirza Kurspahic

Santa and Mrs. Claus enter Market Street via horse-drawn carriage at the conclusion of the 18th annual Reston Holiday Parade.

Pat Macintyre was the parade’s grand marshal.

Some residents believe the stream restoration comes at too steep a price for the trees being cut down for the work to be completed.

The Good, The Bad & The Ugly

Restonians weigh in with opposing views on $70 million stream restoration project.

By Mirza Kurspahic

D avid Oliver has lived in his house on Old Trail Drive for nearly 40 years, all along enmaroled by the neighborhood’s natural surroundings. Oliver put his home on the market for sale on Halloween, attributing the decision to the tree loss in his backyard, a result of the stream restoration project.

“It was beautiful to look at, it was beautiful to walk,” Oliver said about his backyard prior to stream restoration work on Snakeden Branch. “What they did is ecological barbarism,” he said following a Nov. 5 meeting about a walkway on Soapstone Drive.

Nineteen days later, on Monday, Nov. 24, a group of more than 60 Reston residents, gathered to discuss the merits of the stream restoration project. Not all of the residents gathered opposed the project, but those who did were concerned about the tree loss, which they believe to be excessive, that has resulted from the work. “I moved to Hunters Woods, I did not move to Hunters Streams,” Ron Oklewicz, a resident of Triple

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News

Stream Restoration Debated

FROM PAGE 3

Crown Road, said. “Reston is the city of trees.”

“It’s not a restoration, it’s a destroying project,” Al Rider said. “They have taken one of the few pristine areas in this region and they are going to destroy it.”

“We moved here for the woods,” Abby Grissinger said. “Nobody has the right, they may have the authority, but nobody has the right to take away my backyard.”

“We HAVE a responsibility to everyone down the stream from us,” said George Paine, a resident of Aislo Court, who defended the project. “To restore you have to start from scratch.” He warned those gathered that they risk looking like NIMBYs (Not In My Backyard) to the rest of the Reston community.

The restoration work behind the Paines’ house was recently completed and they did lose trees in their viewshed. However, Linda Paine, George Paine’s wife, said the tree loss was necessary as the stream had cut away the root system “really badly.” She said the erosion had exposed sewer pipes and that the residents of her cluster agreed that some trees had to be sacrificed to “care for our neighbors down the stream.” Linda Paine added that the project managers from Wetland Studies and Solutions Inc. (WSSI) and Reston Association (RA) staff had made themselves available to answer the Paines’ and other neighbors’ concerns.

Oklewicz said he is not against the restoration project, but against the way it is being conducted in parts of the area. “I want stream restoration, but I don’t want it at a price of everything,” he said. Alfred Kromholz, another project opponent, warned of the health risks associated with standing water resulting from pools in the streambed designed to slow down the water rushing through the streams and causing erosion. “To what extent will Reston Association be held liable for health problems?” Kromholz asked.

“We THINK DEVELOPERS are getting a hall pass in this,” Oklewicz said of the project, adding that developers had not installed proper storm drains while building up Reston. He questioned the financial agreements that make the $70 million stream restoration project possible. The funding is secured through a mitigation bank created for Reston.

WSSI sells mitigation credits to developers who cannot offset the natural impact in their areas of operation, for example the fourth runway at Dulles Airport or the High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes on the Capitol Beltway bought credits in Reston’s Stream Mitigation Bank. The money from the credits is then used in the restoration project. Under the formula, Reston residents are not paying for the restoration work, most of which is planned on RA property. In addition to the $70 million first phase of the project, Restonians are benefiting from direct contributions from the bank, including $400,000 donated to RA and $650,000 donated to the Friends of Reston. “Money can’t just go out to private firms,” Oklewicz said. “It has to come in to some sort of a general

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Kerin Fine Arts

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Holiday Open House Celebration
at Sunrise of Reston Town Center

Join the festivities as Sunrise at Reston Town Center hosts a Holiday Open House Celebration. At this exciting event you can shop with a select group of merchants and craftsmen as they display a wide selection of holiday gifts, including toys, cosmetics, jewelry and accessories. One-stop holiday shopping! Refreshments will be served.

While you’re here, meet our team, tour our community and find out what we do to make our community a place seniors are proud to call home.

Tour our beautifully appointed suites and register to win a door prize!

EVENT DETAILS

Holiday Open House Celebration at Sunrise at Reston Town Center

Saturday, December 6, 2008
10:00am - 4:00pm
Space is limited. RSVP to 703-956-8930 today!

30th Annual Herndon Holiday Arts & Crafts Show

Sunday, December 7, 2008 • 10am-4pm

The Herndon Community Center will host over 100 arts and crafts vendors offering unique gifts, holiday decorations, and handmade items.

Refreshments available. Please, no baby strollers.

Herndon Community Center
814 Ferndale Ave.
Herndon, VA 20170
703-787-7300

Sponsored by the Herndon Parks and Recreation Department
www.herndon.va.gov

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**Holiday Events**

**Holiday mini-book sale, Dec. 3-8.** Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. 703-499-2700.

**Holiday concert, the Herndon High School and Herndon Middle School Orchestra will present a free holiday concert, Dec. 3, in the Herndon High School auditorium at 7 p.m. For all ages; all are welcome. Visit www.herndonorch.org.**

On Thursday, Dec. 4, from 5:30 p.m., at the Hiddengrook Clubhouse, 1508A Saddlers Wells, Herndon, holiday shop that will benefit a needy family place. This family lost the father to brain cancer and is now losing their home to foreclosure. A portion of all sales will go directly to the family, as well as the proceeds from the raffles. For more information or to donate a raffle item, contact Marylyn Henry at 703-766-0294 or mbmealey@cox.net.

Saturday, Dec. 6, holiday craft fair and secret shop, at Fox Mill Elementary School, 2601 Viking Drive Herndon, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission, open to the public.

**The Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon will take place Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets on sale at the Herndon Dulles Visitor’s Center and the Herndon Florist both located on Lynn Street. $10/15/day. Home locations: 1071, 605, 761 Dranesville Road, 656, 761 draped, 761 drapes, 666 Vine St., Merrybrook, 2346 Centreville Road; 630 Nash St., 835 Elder St.**

**Holiday celebration, Lake Anne is celebrating the holidays with a petting zoo, entertainment, ornament making and a visit from Santa at Lake Anne Plaza. Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Visit lakeannaplaza.com for details.**

**The Herndon Chamber of Commerce stages its annual holiday celebration featuring the lighting of Herndon’s Christmas tree, Herndon High band leading in a carol sing-along, holiday music for the children and Santa Claus comes to town with presents for the little ones. The event takes place Saturday, Dec. 6, 5-6 p.m., on the lawn of the Old Town Hall Square, 710 Elder St., Herndon.**

A seasonal celebration, the Reston Chorale will perform Dec. 6, at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., at the Reston Community Center. 20+ adults, 15 seniors and youth. Visit www.restonchorale.org.

**Horse-drawn carriage rides, Saturdays, Dec. 6, 13, and 20, at Reston Town Center, from 12-4 p.m. to benefit local charities.**

**Responding to Citizens’ Concerns**

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Fund and then be appropriated out to the family, as well as the proceeds from the raffles. For more information or to donate a raffle item, contact Marylyn Henry at 703-766-0294 or mbmealey@cox.net.

**THE FIRST PHASE of the stream restoration project will also complete 60+ plus residents were meeting to have their own discussion. Butler said the stream restoration project was implemented because of bad degradation of Reston’s streams, which then affected, among other things, Reston’s drinking water. In the past 10 years, he said, RA has spent nearly $1 million dredging the lakes and most of the sediment removed came from the degraded streams. “The stream restoration project is very popular in the community, amongst most folks,” Butler said. Ken Andrews, a former member of RA’s Environmental Advisory Committee, said the stream restoration project has been in the works for years and came in response to citizen concerns. “It is entirely a member-initiated project,” Andrews said.

In 2002 RA published the Reston Waterway Management Plan. Since then a series of steps were taken for the mitigation bank to be located and approved in Reston. The Reston Design Review Board and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Virginia’s Department of Environmental Quality and Fairfax County all approved the construction plans. The groundbreaking took place in February 2003.

For more information on the stream restoration project, visit: http://reston.wetlandstudies.com.

**Ongoing Events**

**Holiday Book Drive.** Barnes & Noble, Spectrum Center, 1851 Virginia Drive, Reston, is supporting The Emby Rucker Community Center, a 501c3 organization. Their goal is to gather and supply books and suggestions for those wanting to make a purchase and add to the boxes of gifts. The shelter asks that all gifts be new and unwrapped to make it easier for them to match the gift and recipient.

**Holiday Performances**

Community groups will present music and dance performances at Fountain Square, Reston Town Center. Schedule on www.fountainontown.com.

The Bargain Loft Holiday Shop, 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, is open for business through Dec. 24. Store open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. All proceeds go to Herndon-Reston Fish Inc. to help people with emergency needs. Visit www.herndonrestonfish.org.

**Visit Santa**

Visit Santa and take photos with him next to M&S Grill, on Democracy Street at the Reston Town Center, through 24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.