



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCKEE

Supervisor Hudgins addresses the crowd.

Hudgins Hosts Open House

Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins held a Holiday Open House at the North Government Center on Wednesday. County officials, Police leadership, Reston Founder Robert E. Simon, Jr., RA President Kathleen Driscoll McKee and many others attended the event.



Kathleen Driscoll McKee, RA President, discusses holiday plans with Fairfax County Police Capt. Deborah Burnett and Maj. A.J. Hurlock.

WEEK IN RESTON

Toy Drive at South Lakes High

Area residents are invited to show their community and holiday spirit by bringing a new, unwrapped toy to South Lakes High School on Friday, Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m.. The South Lakes High School Student Government Association is sponsoring a toy drive for children in need during the Varsity basketball game against Herndon. Those who can't make the game can drop off their toys at the school anytime on Friday.

Get Home Safe

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program is offering its SoberRide program through January first. People who call the number will get a free taxicab ride home, up to a \$30 value. During the 2009 holiday season, 692 people in the area took advantage of the program, up from 468 in 2008.

This past Halloween, SoberRide provided 461 rides home. Area residents age 21 and over can call the toll-free number at 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) and AT&T users can dial #TAXI. More information about SoberRide can be found at www.soberride.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Committee for Dulles Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. Dulles Airport Manager Chris Browne's annual update. \$45-\$60. www.committeefordulles.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Republican Club of Greater Reston Meeting. 7 p.m. Lake Anne Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. 703-829-5384.

Moms Club of Herndon. 10 a.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Monthly meeting and annual holiday party with holiday crafts, storytime and toys for children. All are welcome. herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, South Lakes freshmen Kacey Hirshfield, Olivia Wolfe and Hannah Becker are trying to organize a triathlon in memory of their friend Amy Boyle, who died of a brain tumor three years ago.

In Memory of a Friend

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Amy Boyle, Kacey Hirshfield, Olivia Wolfe and Hannah Baxter were best friends. The four of them attended school and played sports together. Three years ago, Boyle died from a brain tumor, and her friends formed "Amy's Amigos," racing in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life, raising more than \$24,000 since then.

The group, whose motto is "Be Amy-zing," won the top youth fundraiser prize at last year's Relay For Life. Their Amy's Amigos shirts also have the acronym "Amazing athlete, Marvelous Smile, Yes to a cure."

Now, the trio are freshmen at South Lakes High School, and the memory of their friend is inspiring them to go even farther. They're trying to organize a triathlon for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, with help from the Reston and South Lakes community.

"She was a really athletic person, so we thought it would be appropriate to get people involved that way," Wolfe said. "We chose the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation because they aim to treat and cure the same type of tumor that killed Amy, which is the most common childhood tumor. It's neat to know we're doing something that could help lead to a cure."

"Reston doesn't really have a kids triathlon, while there's runs and bike races, we have a lot of

"Hopefully we'll get people involved for the years we have left here, and it will be strong enough to continue."

— Hannah Becker

swimmers here too," Hirshfield said. "But there are a lot of people that do triathlons, so maybe we can attract them and their kids."

THE PLAN is for runners to race around the South Lake High School track, use the nearby Ridge Heights Pool and ride bikes along South Lakes Drive. The group plans to have different age groups that will do different lengths of running, biking and swimming, and they'll keep them separate so the younger students have opportunities. They hope to have groups of six to eight year olds, nine to 12 year olds and 13 to 15 year olds.

The group is currently trying for a weekend in May, but most details have to be fleshed out.

"Finding dates that might work has been the hardest part, there's a lot that goes on around here during the weekends," Hirshfield said.

The girls are currently submitting paperwork to become an official school club at South Lakes, which will help them recruit the

volunteer support they need. Their ultimate goal is to create a lasting event to honor their friend that lasts long after they have graduated.

"We want it to be a part of the school community after we graduate," Becker said. "Hopefully we'll get people involved for the years we have left here, and it will be strong enough to continue."

The girls felt it was important to get high school students involved so they would take a sense of ownership in putting such an event together.

"We want the kids to get some help from parents, but the kids are going to do a lot, not just let their parents take everything," Becker said. "We did an online survey to find out if people were interested, and we got more than 100 responses."

THE GIRLS are hoping to have 150 participants for their triathlon, which would allow them to raise a decent amount of money without making the cost to participate too high.

Wolfe said "we're serious about getting it together, but we want to make it a fun event so people will come back in future years."

The girls admit that it's hard to find time to get the club together and work with the necessary groups around Reston, but it's something they want to make time for.

"When you're dedicated to something, it's not work, so you find the time," Hirshfield said.