

NEWS



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Jeanne Krohn, who designed the exhibit at the Reston Museum, Hunter Richardson, who helped develop and market Reston Town Center, Leila Gordon, executive director of the Reston Community Center, Jim Cleveland, who helped develop Reston Town Center and Chuck Veatch, a founding board member of the Reston Historic Trust, speak about their experiences with Reston Town Center.

It Was 20 Years Ago Today

Time Capsule, exhibit kick off Reston Town Center's 20th anniversary.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

This month marks the 20th anniversary of Reston Town Center, which has evolved into an urban-style destination in metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. The Reston Historic Trust, which includes the Reston Museum, as well as the Reston Community Center and the Reston Chamber of Commerce have put together a series of events to tell the story of how Reston's downtown came to be.

On Oct. 18, 1990, Reston Town Center officially opened with the dedication of the Mercury Fountain. Saint Clair Cemin, a Brazilian-born sculptor created the 20-foot bronze and marble statue. The figure of Mercury was chosen because he is the patron of commerce and communication.

On Oct. 18, 2010, Reston founder Robert Simon joined management from Reston Town Center, town center developers and other local officials for the planting of a time capsule, not to be opened for another 20 years. Among the items placed in the capsule, which will not be seen by

Happy Anniversary

The Reston Community Center and the Reston Historic Trust will be holding several events to reflect on the past, present and future of Reston Town Center over the next few weeks. For more information about the events, call 703-709-7700, or e-mail restonmuseum@gmail.com.

❖ Oct. 23: "Developing the Dream" panel discussion, featuring Reston Town Center developers Hunter Richardson and Jim Cleveland, designer Cy Paumier and John Thillman, who served on the Fairfax Planning Commission. Discussion, 2 to 4 p.m. at the Reston Community Center Lake Anne, 1609A Washington Plaza.

❖ Oct. 30: Walking tour of Reston Town Center. Bonnie White, a Lake Anne resident and volunteer at the Reston Museum, Richardson and Joe Ritchey will lead a tour, starting at 1:30 p.m. at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street.

❖ Nov. 5: "Visions for the Future" panel discussion, featuring Robert Goudie and Pete Otteni. Discussion, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Reston Community Center Lake Anne.

human eyes until Oct. 18, 2030, were current newspapers, books and magazines, as well as a few fashion items donated by town center retailers.

"We thought about putting a thumb drive in there with some photos and other information, but in 20 years, thumb drives could be as useful as 8-tracks," said Kathy Cope, general manager of Reston Town Center Phase I. "Hopefully some of us will be here in 20 years when they dig it up."

District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) was one of the officials who threw the first spadeful of dirt on the capsule.

"Reston Town Center has seen 20 years of great planning and development, and I hope they'll be able to say the same in 20 years," she said.

LATER THAT EVENING, the Reston Museum officially opened its exhibit on Reston Town Center. The exhibit formed a makeshift urban center in the middle of the museum, where a giant roadmap on the ground was flanked by "skyscraper" displays, which pointed

out many of the features of the town center.

Many of the planners spent the better part of the 80s designing and planning Reston Town Center were on hand. Cy Paumier is an urban design consultant who pushed the idea of an urban center as opposed to a standard retail mall.

"I thought the best solution was a Main Street-style place, but a lot of people wanted an indoor, closed mall," he said. "I'm very pleased and proud of how it turned out."

Reston existed for 26 years before the town center opened, and one of the reasons it was opened was to attract more people from around the D.C. area.

"In 1990, people from the Washington metro area didn't come to Reston, we had to convince them to come. The ice rink was supposed to be temporary, to hide the fact that we didn't have many tenants in place," said Hunter Richardson, a former vice president at Reston Land Corporation and a senior development manager on the Reston Town Center.

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