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# The Gainesville Times

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# Brentsville underground

## Historic center named Underground Railroad site

By TARA SLATE DONALDSON  
tdonaldson@timespapers.com

On a cool Tuesday morning, only squirrels and blue jays disturb the quiet of the Brentsville Courthouse Historic Centre.

It's a far cry from the noise and bustle that the locals experienced here 175 years ago.

In the decades leading up to the Civil War, the small town in western Prince William was the county seat and the center of legal and community activity.

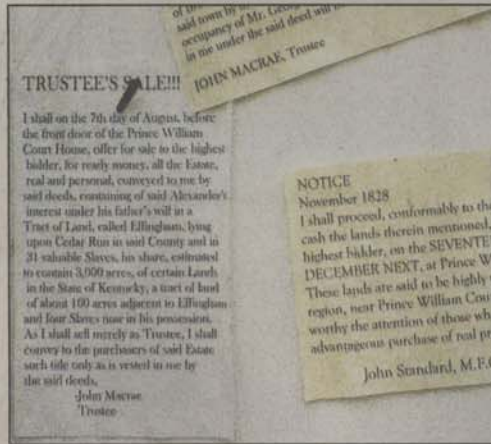
Almost two centuries later, the courthouse, jail, church and school stand empty during the week, open to tourists only on weekends.

And a new historical designation may be bringing in more visitors than ever before.

Last month, the Brentsville center was named a National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site, a federal designation that will help preservationists bring in more visitors and grant money.

"It's an honorary designation basically,"

See BRENTSVILLE, Page A4



Times Staff Photos/Randy Litzinger

**BRENTSVILLE:** At top, the old Brentsville Courthouse was the site of slave auctions, trials and executions in the 1800s. Below, replicas of notices for slave and property auctions are pinned to the courthouse door.

# The Gainesville Times

# HAPPENINGS

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Mail items to: Check It Out,  
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Warrenton, Va. 20186  
Phone: 540-347-4222  
E-mail: tdonaldson@timespapers.com  
Submissions due two weeks prior to event.

A2 Community calendar for Prince William County

August 29, 2008



Smooth Operator campaign, Aug. 3-9. Prince William County police officers issued 1,658 traffic citations for aggressive driving violations.

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Peffley, the church pastor, will be conducting personal tours of the new church at 2:30, 3 and 3:30 p.m. Homemade cookies and punch will be provided.

### Auditions set for 'Willy Wonka'

Actors, singers and dancers are needed for the Pied Piper Theatre's upcoming production of "Willy Wonka Junior," which tells the beloved story of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."

Auditions will take place on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 5-6 at the Center for the Arts at the Candy Factory, 9419 Battle St in Manassas. Performances are scheduled in Manassas from Nov 15-23. How to Audition classes are also available for those who would like to be better prepared for auditions. Call the Center for the Arts at (703) 330-ARTS for further information or to schedule an audition.

### Blood drive is Aug. 30

The Inova Blood Donor Services Blood Mobile will be at the Virginia Gateway Shopping Center off of Linton Hall Road on Saturday Aug. 30, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Blood supplies are expected to be critically low on Labor Day weekend and we need the help of all eligible donors. To make an appointment or for eligibility information, call (866) BLOODSAVES. All who attempt to donate will receive a gas card courtesy of Inova Blood Donor Services.

### Memorial golf tournament to honor soldier

LCPL Colin Wolfe was a Manassas resident and former student of Manassas Ballet Theatre. He lost his life in 2006 while serving in Iraq.

To honor his memory and sacrifice the community is invited to participate in a fundraising golf tournament to support the educational outreach programs of Manassas Ballet Theatre. The Educational

The tournament is scheduled for Friday afternoon, Sept. 12 at Evergreen Country Club. The entry fee is \$150 per person and sponsorships are also available. For details or to sign up, contact mark Wolfe at (703) 368-8106, ext. 15, or mwolfe@adcohvac.com.

### Sugarloaf Crafts Festival is back

More than 150 of the nation's most accomplished artisans and craft designers will present their handcrafted works at the

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival, Sept. 5-7 at the Prince William County Fairgrounds in Manassas.

The festival runs from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Three-day admission is \$7 in advance or \$8 at the door. Children under 12 can attend for free.

For details or to purchase tickets, visit [www.sugarloaforcrafts.com](http://www.sugarloaforcrafts.com) or call (800) 210-9900.

### Second Battle of Manassas van tour planned

On Saturday, Aug. 30, the Prince William County Historic Preservation Division is sponsoring a van tour focusing on the campaign leading up to the Second Battle of Manassas. The tour will detail Confederate Gen. "Stonewall" Jackson's famous flank march around the Union army in August 1862. The tour will visit sites along Jackson's march such as Jeffersonton, Orlean, Marshall, Thoroughfare Gap, Bristoe Station, Conner House and the Brawner Farm on Manassas National Battlefield Park. The cost is \$80 per person, which includes transportation, admission to all sites and a boxed lunch. The tour will run from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Space is limited and reservations are required.

For more information, call (703)365-7895 or email [rorrison@pwcgov.org](mailto:rorrison@pwcgov.org).

### Auditions set for 'The Nutcracker'

The Manassas Ballet Theatre will hold auditions for "The Nutcracker" on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 9004 Mathis Ave. in Manassas. Audition registration forms can be found at the theater office, 9004 Mathis Ave or online at [www.manassasballet.org](http://www.manassasballet.org). Advance registration is required to audition.

Auditions will be held between 2:30 and 6 p.m. and are open to boys and girls ages 5 and up. For details, email [info@manassasballet.org](mailto:info@manassasballet.org).

### Volunteers needed to teach English

ESL and Immigrant Ministries needs volunteers to teach English to adult immigrants in 17 locations in Northern Virginia, including Prince William. Training is provided in August. Day and evening classes begin in September. For more information or to submit an online application, visit <http://eslim.org>.