

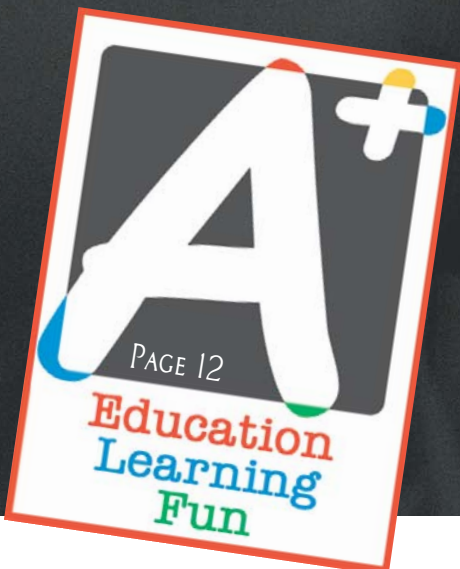
Risky Behavior By the Numbers

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Remembering Ryan Dillon

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MARCH 22-28, 2012



Celebration Of Song

NEWS, PAGE 2

The Robinson Select Women's Ensemble performs during the annual Robinson Secondary Choral Department Performance Assessment Concert on Tuesday night. The Robinson Select Women's Ensemble is one of two Robinson choral groups that will perform at the World Choir Games this summer in Cincinnati with 350 other choirs from across the globe.

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The Robinson Singers perform during the annual Robinson Secondary Choral Department Performance Assessment Concert on Tuesday night. The Robinson Singers are one of the two Robinson choral groups that will perform at the World Choir Games this summer in Cincinnati with 350 other choirs from across the globe.

Celebration of Song

Robinson choral groups selected to compete during 2012 World Choir Games.

Thousands of the world's best singers will arrive in Cincinnati for the 2012 World Choir Games this July, a competition that kicks off with Olympic-style fanfare. The 11-day event includes hundreds of choirs from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, North America and South America, who will compete in 23 categories from July 4-14.

Two choral ensembles from Robinson Secondary School - the Select Women's Ensemble and the Robinson Singers - have been accepted by audition to perform at this prestigious choral competition. From July 4-8, the Robinson Choirs will be evaluated by an international panel of choral conductors. The students will also have the opportunity to share "friendship concerts" with other choirs from around the world and attend clinics and performances.

The World Choir Games begin with an Olympic-style opening ceremony complete with a parade of nations. Robinson's choirs have two of the four groups representing the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"The students have been working hard over the course of many years to reach the level of artistry required to participate in such an enriching endeavor," said Michael Horanski, the school's Director of Choral Activities.

The school has launched a fundraising effort to

allow the 63 students to compete in the games. Horanski said they hope to raise \$50,000.

"Of course, there is an expense involved with putting a trip like this together," Horanski said. "The students in the choirs very much would like to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event."

"This is such an exciting experience," said Mary Davis, president of the Robinson Choral Parents Association. "Our students will have the opportunity to experience an incredible musical and cultural exchange, and be evaluated by an international jury of choral directors. It's quite an honor."

To help fund the trip, sponsors can mail a tax-deductible donation to: Robinson Choral Parents Association. In the memo line, indicate: "choir games donation." Sponsors may also donate online.

To learn more about the Choir Games, and ways to donate, go to www.robinsonsings.org/home/world-choir-games.

Davis said those who make donation will be recognized at the farewell concert at the beginning of July and throughout the year in the school's concert programs.

"We want to help our wonderful student musicians 'Go for the Gold,' and join a world-wide community of musicians," Davis said.

— VICTORIA ROSS



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Robinson Secondary School Man's Choir perform Praise His Holy Name as one of their three pieces during the Robinson Secondary Choral Department Performance Assessment Concert.



The Robinson Area Elementary School Honors Choir performs during the annual Robinson Secondary Choral Department Performance Assessment Concert on Tuesday night.



Some members of the Robinson Secondary School choirs perform with the Robinson Area Elementary School Honors Choir Tuesday evening at Robinson.



The Robinson Select Women's Ensemble performs during the annual Robinson Secondary Choral Department Performance Assessment Concert on Tuesday night.

Food, Fashion and Fun in Fair Oaks

Salvation Army fund-raiser includes lunch, silent auction.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Food, stylish clothing and fun are on the menu for the Fairfax Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary's upcoming fund-raiser. It's slated for Friday, March 30, at the Waterford in Fair Oaks (across from Fair Oaks Mall).

The event is the 32nd Annual Fashion Show/Luncheon/Silent Auction to benefit the Fairfax Salvation Army. The silent auction begins at 10:30 a.m., and lunch – catered by the Waterford – is at noon. Tickets are \$40; contact event Chairman Angela Ganey at 703-250-5809 or via angelaganey@verizon.net.

Lord and Taylor is providing the fashions and, this year for the first time, men will also model. At least seven women and three men will each model three different outfits for casual wear, daytime and evening soirees. In addition, musical entertainment will be provided by famed opera star Angela Knight, currently in her 13th season with the Washington National Opera.

REGARDING THE SILENT AUCTION, attendees will be able to bid on a wide assortment of items, including gift cards from local restaurants such as Ruth's Chris and the Great American chain, from Wegmans grocery store and for services provided by local merchants. Merrifield Garden Center is offering gift cards for garden accessories such as plants and decorative statues.

Also up for bid will be new jewelry – pearls, earrings, bracelets, necklaces; as well as a table full of donated, slightly used jewelry. There are several Coach bags, Vera Bradley accessories, plus autographed photos of celebrities, including actor Mark Wahlberg, Washington Redskins football players, soccer star Brandi Chastain and Olympic gymnast Kerri Strug.

Several gift baskets will also be available to bidders, such as Easter baskets of candy and stuffed animals; a basket of large-print, best-selling, mystery novels; plus a basket of bread donated by Great Harvest Bread Co. In addition, there'll be a Build-a-Bear and a gift certificate to dress it, as well as a large floral painting from a Vienna gift shop.

"We have a really nice variety of things," said silent-auction coordinator and Auxiliary Treasurer Connie Lauther of the City of Fairfax. "I'm hoping to have at least 75 silent-auction items."

Auxiliary President Ida Mae Speeks is also looking forward to a successful event and hopes it raises at least \$6,000 toward the Fairfax Salvation Army's many programs that help families in need in the local area. The group provides utility and rent assistance, food, clothing and furniture on an emergency basis, as well as toys and bicycles to needy children at Christmastime.

"This fashion show is our only fund-raiser for the



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. LLOYD GLOVER

Wearing an Oleg Cassini patterned-chiffon dress for evening, with a Donna Rico shrug, is Clifton's Mary Lou Glover.

things the Auxiliary supports," said Speeks. "These include a Mexican orphanage and our school-supplies and backpack program for local students. And part of the ticket cost is tax-deductible."

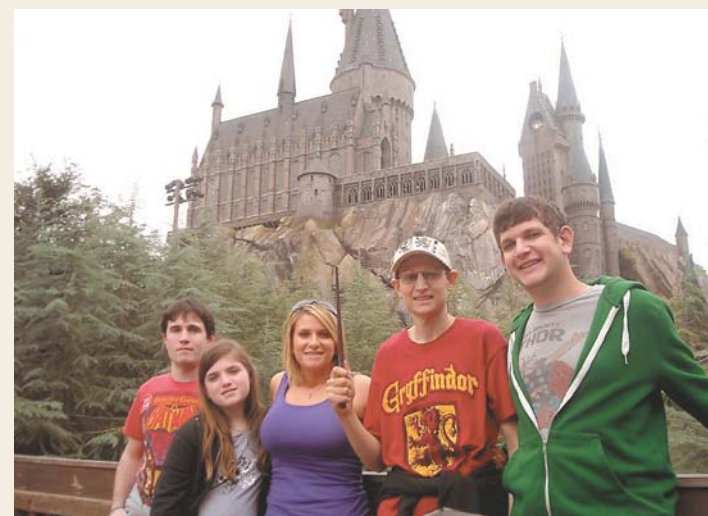
The Auxiliary has some 15 members currently, and Speeks, 78, has played an active role in it for more than 20 years. And she's got a good reason.

"My papa was in WWI and died when I was 17, but he'd told me about being in the muddy trenches in France," she said. "He said they'd be so cold and wet and, whenever they got out, a doughnut and coffee tasted so good. Sometimes, the Salvation Army brought them and, sometimes, another organization did – but the Salvation Army never charged the soldiers. So my papa always told me, 'If you ever have anything to give, give it to the Salvation Army.'"

YEARS LATER, said Speeks, "Two church friends, now gone, recruited me for the Salvation Army, and I do believe in the good works it does. And once I got involved, I was hooked. And this fashion show fund-raiser is so worth doing – the whole point is to help others."

She said the Salvation Army provides birthday cakes to men in a Fairfax County substance-abuse rehab program. And at Christmas, it receives stockings filled by local churches and community residents, sorts them into age groups and distributes them to needy families, along with toys. The Salvation Army also helps send children to camp and purchases music and instruments for the Youth Music Program.

That's why the auxiliary hopes the upcoming fund-raiser yields as much money as possible to continue supporting all the Salvation Army's charitable programs. To become a sponsor, buy an ad for the event's program or donate gift certificates and merchandise for the silent auction, contact Ganey at angelaganey@verizon.net or 703-250-5809.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY HALLIE DILLON

(From left) are Mac, Shea, Sam, Ryan and Liam Dillon, in November 2011, when their family visited The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Studios in Orlando.

Remembering Ryan Dillon

Burke resident dies at age 22.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Life stacked the deck against Ryan Dillon. He was autistic and had bone cancer and just lived to age 22.

Yet because of his family and friends, he had a full and happy life. And he, in turn, enriched theirs with his presence. So when he died March 8, it wasn't the end, because he will always live on in their hearts.

"There were over 500 people at his service – which wasn't a funeral, but a celebration of his life," said his father, Don Dillon. And, added Ryan's mother,

Hallie Dillon, "That's a true testament to Ryan and the special person he was."

Ryan was one of five children – three boys and two girls – of this Burke Centre family. Robinson grad Mac now attends the Pulley Career Center, for special-needs children, at West Potomac High; Liam is a Robinson senior; Samantha is grown and works for a government contractor; and Shea is a sixth-grader at Fairview Elementary.

Mom Hallie is an assistant principal at Poplar Tree Elementary. Dad Don formerly taught P.E. at both Fairview and Clifton elementaries and is now an adapted-P.E. teacher for special-ed students in FCPS's Cluster VIII.

SEE RYAN, PAGE 7



A happy Ryan Dillon enjoys Butterbeer at The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, just like the Harry Potter characters did.

Grand Military Band Performs at Hayfield Secondary

The Virginia Grand Military Band has moved to the Rebecca S. Wilburn auditorium at Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria. Members of the Virginia Grand Military Band are a veritable “who’s who” in the concert band world, and bring to each performance an artistry and professionalism which have earned them accolades and praise throughout the world. Many VGMB musicians are current or retired members of the premier U.S. military bands headquartered in the Washington, D.C. area. Other members are hand-selected wind and percussion musicians who travel from as far as Maine, New York, and Kentucky to perform with the 80-piece ensemble. The Virginia Grand Military Band has been presenting concerts in the Washington, D.C. area for nineteen years.

The band performs music for the “Classic Concert Band,” both original and transcribed, which has stood the test of time and become part of the living history which is the American concert band. The music is a part of this living heritage and the interpretations are a result of over 20 years of research, study, and performance of this music by Virginia Grand Military Band conductor Loras John Schissel.

Schissel is the music director and conductor of both the Virginia Grand Military Band and the Cleveland Orchestra’s Blossom Festival Band, two of the finest bands of their type in the world. Schissel has traveled throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia, conducting orchestras, bands, and choral ensembles in a broad range of musical styles and varied programs. As a composer



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The Virginia Grand Military Band has been presenting concerts in the Washington, D.C. area for nineteen years.

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Upcoming Concerts

Remaining Virginia Grand Military Band concert dates are March 31 and May 26. All performances begin at 8 p.m. and take place at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria where ample free parking is available. Admission is \$20 for adults. Children under 18 are admitted free of charge. Further information may be found on the band's web site: www.vgmb.com

and orchestrator, Schissel has created an extensive catalogue of over 400 works for orchestra, symphonic wind band, and jazz ensemble. His musical score for the PBS special, Bill Moyers: America's First River, The Hudson, televised in 2002, received extensive coverage and acclaim. Schissel has appeared in the PBS documentary "If You Knew Sousa" for the American Experience series, as well as Ben Wattenberg's Think Tank. He continues to serve as commentator on the Voice of America and for the U.S. Information Service. Schissel is a senior musicologist at the Library of Congress and a leading authority on the music of Percy Aldridge Grainger, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and former Boston Symphony Orchestra conductor Serge Koussevitzky.

— JEFF ARWOOD, MANAGER

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SATURDAY/MARCH 24

Empowering Young Men of Color to Prepare For A Successful Future.

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Flint Hill School, 10409 Academic Drive, Oakton. A symposium for minority males of middle and high school age sponsored by the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Topics include money management, peer pressure, domestic violence, importance of education, conflict resolution and anger management, college preparation and more. Free. www.fcaedst.org/applications.htm.

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1-5 p.m. T&B Education, 9687 Main St, #C, Fairfax. Free. 703-425-9687 or tandbeducation@gmail.com.

Franconia United Methodist Men Ministry.

8 a.m. Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. All men are invited to join. Participate in service projects such as Heart Havens, group homes for the mentally handicapped; the Job Jar, Adopt a Highway and supporting Camp Rainbow, a summer camp for the handicapped. Meetings are on the fourth Saturday of each month. 703-971-5151 or www.franconiaumc.org.

Springfield-Annandale Branch of the American Association of University Women.

11 a.m. Country Club of Fairfax 5110 Ox Road Fairfax. Silent auction, luncheon and Trinity University President Patricia McGuire on "Illusions and Realities: Why the Women's Revolution Is Not Over". Tickets \$38, must be purchased by Monday, March 19. Reserve at 703-256-6246 or springfling@rclark.net.

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'Practices That Undermine Trust'

Virginia gets a failing grade on ethics rules.

The State Integrity Investigation is “designed to expose practices that undermine trust in state capitols — and spotlight the states that are doing things right.”

Virginia got a failing grade, ranking 47 out of 50 states for vulnerability to corruption. Corruption in the Commonwealth is probably not any more rampant than voter fraud. But in terms of practices that could undermine trust, Virginia has vast room for improvement.

Here are a few comments about Virginia from the investigation (can't call them highlights):

“The Old Dominion is one of nine states with no statewide ethics commission, one of four states with no campaign finance limits and one of only two states (South Carolina is the other) where the part-time legislators handpick the

judges before whom many of them practice law. “With 8.1 million residents, Virginia is the 12th most populous state in the union. But its part-time lawmakers have one of the shortest meeting schedules in the country — 30 days in odd-numbered years and 60 days in even-numbered years. At that speed, lobbyists of necessity have been elevated from influence peddlers to trusted advisers and authors of laws.”

Virginia has admirable disclosure of campaign contributions, earning a near perfect grade on citizen access to campaign finance records. The credit on the transparency of actual contributions to candidates belongs to the Virginia Public Access Project, vpap.org, more than the Commonwealth.

But the benefit of access to information on campaign finance is overshadowed by “lax oversight rules, weak consumer representation protections, dwindling capitol press corps and coziness between political and economic elites. ... Meanwhile, the few ethics and disclosure requirements that do exist tend to be flawed,

limited or fraught with exemptions and qualifications,” according to the report.

A couple of examples of laws and practices that could undermine trust:

- ❖ Virginia has no limits on financial contributions to political candidates. Literally. Companies and individuals can give unlimited amounts to any and all state and local elected officials, with some very limited restriction on timing.

- ❖ The licensing of car title loan companies, and allowing those companies in Virginia to lend to out-of-state car owners is clearly not in the interests of consumers or the communities where these storefronts are located.

- ❖ Despite a groundswell of indignation about a state law that sets the start date for public schools rather than allowing local school districts to set their own calendar, the entertainment industry prevailed this year again.

- ❖ Votes in subcommittees, where many important reforms go to die, are not recorded and not available to the public.

See Virginia's report card (overall grade: F) <http://www.stateintegrity.org/virginia>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Protecting Integrity Of the Voting Process

To the Editor:

Your last week's editorial, “Veto Voter ID Bill,” perpetuates the canard that requiring voters to have proper ID to vote somehow disenfranchises voters and effects a disproportionate number of low income and minority voters. Just as we do here in Fairfax County, requiring that a voter present proper ID to match them in the voter rolls at the precinct is not a burden to anyone. Proper identification is also a reasonable protection to the integrity of the voting process for all voters. Fairfax County will send you your Voter ID card for free—mind you, it doesn't even have a photo—so you can identify yourself at your precinct and the precinct worker can match you to your address. One vote, one voter, one address.

There are also two very tangible ways you can know that requiring voter IDs is truly a reasonable and common sense safeguard to the electoral process. Have you ever seen a potential voter interviewed by the media who was denied their right to vote because they didn't have an ID card? Like Diogenes wandering the streets of ancient Athens looking for the honest man, I've looked for that interview or voter and I've yet to see it. Secondly, if the requirement to have voter ID cards were such a burden for less fortunate or minority vot-

ers, and with nearly six months yet to go before elections, why aren't we seeing Democrats organizing and conducting massive campaigns to get voters their ID cards so everyone who wants to be can be in compliance? I've yet to see an initiative to actually get those supposedly disenfranchised voters their ID cards. Maybe some of the donations from those big money political fund raising dinners could be used to pay for such a campaign to get everyone their voter IDs. Then there would be no issue—right?

Governor McDonnell should fully back reasonable and common sense legislation on Voter IDs for the integrity of the voting process in Virginia for all voters.

Chris J. Krisinger
Colonel, USAF (Ret)
Burke

Partisan Politics Not the Answer

To the Editor:

Partisan politics at the risk of shutting down Virginia's government is not the answer for the citizens of our great Commonwealth. We elect our leaders to represent us in hopes that they are focused on doing what is in the best interest of the constituents they serve. Senate Democrats voted along strict party lines to block the bi-annual budget; putting education, public safety, transportation, and services for the elderly at risk. Why? Because they feel as though Committee Assignments are un-

fair. These are the people elected to represent us in Richmond and they are letting us down by ignoring our teachers, our policemen, and our government workers. It's unfortunate that Senate Democrats are more concerned with their own image politically than the people they represent.

Devin Limo
Fairfax

Election Officer Experience

To the Editor:

On March 6, I volunteered as an election officer at the polls for the Presidential Primary election. It was a great experience serving my community, and I enjoyed learning more about the election process and how it works.

From 5 a.m. until approximately 10 p.m., your duties as an election officer will be to register voters, set up voting equipment, set up the voting machines for each voter, put up signs and direct voters, as well as tally and seal the boxes with voter ballots when we closed the polls. Although it was a long process, which required you to stay at the polls from sunrise to sunset, the experience was well worth it. I did not realize that the voting process would start so early and even after all of the voters have voted, there was still much more work to be done. The chief officers and election officers are the people who uphold and maintain the entire voting process with the utmost care

and precision. Learning the behind-the-scene duties at the polls made me realize how much work and dedication is put into every election. Every vote does matter, especially in a low-turn out race, and both of the chief officers carried out their duties efficiently and effectively. They were patient and understanding, and they shared their own stories about their experience working at the polls.

I would encourage George Mason University students, regardless of their affiliation, to sign up to be an election officer. In most cases, performing a civic duty, such as working as an election officer, would excuse a student from class, so they will not fall behind on their schoolwork if a student wanted to volunteer at the polls. They are also looking for students or volunteers who speak different languages in order to assist non-English speaking voters. As a Chinese-American student, I was able to translate some of the instructions for the voters if they were new to the voting procedures.

If you would like to sign up as an election officer, you can go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov and fill out an application at this link: <http://www.fairfaxgop.com/uploads/File/electionofficerapply.pdf>. The next volunteer opportunity will be in June for the Congress and Senatorial primary election. This will be a great run-through for the biggest election event in November, the presidential election.

Gilda Yang
George Mason University
Fairfax

Ryan Dillon Remembered

FROM PAGE 3

Although autistic, Ryan was high-functioning, expressed himself well and loved people. He was first diagnosed with osteosarcoma in 2003 at age 13. He had chemotherapy for a year and several surgeries to repair his left leg – the tibia was removed and replaced with a titanium rod. But Ryan dealt with it well and understood treatment was necessary.

He continued being treated and undergoing surgeries through 2006. He started healing and, in 2008, graduated from Robinson. He then took job-training classes there, learned office procedures at Westfield High and played baseball and basketball on Special Olympics teams.

“The oncologists told us he pretty much had this beat,” said Don Dillon. “Ryan was doing great and was only going back once a year for follow-ups.”

Then in March 2009, doctors discovered the cancer had spread to both lungs. More chemo and surgery followed, preventing Ryan from further participation in contact sports. In January 2010, he was in remission – until June 2011, when doctors noticed a tumor had returned to his right lung. “Surgery was scheduled for July, but the doctors could only remove 50 percent of it because part was too close to the esophagus and diaphragm and they didn’t want to risk any damage,” said Hallie Dillon. “Radiation wasn’t an option because of its location, and the chemo dosage he’d need would have been too strong for his body to tolerate.”

DOCTORS DETERMINED a lower dosage Ryan could take but, said his father, “At that point, the clock was ticking. We started doing all we could to prolong his life and keep him comfortable. He couldn’t go to school, but could go to movies with friends and dinners out with the family.”

Ryan could also travel, so he and his family visited relatives at the beach in New Jersey. And because he was such a big Harry Potter fan, in November 2011, his parents took him to Universal Studios in Florida to see the Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Still, said Don Dillon, “His body was starting to shut down and we knew it was time. In September, they’d only given him two months to live; and in October, we told his brothers and sisters that eventually the cancer would take his life. But Ryan didn’t give up; he kept

fighting ‘til the end.”

“You don’t ever come to grips with it,” said his mother. “You just hold onto your faith and continue to have hope. It was important for us to keep positive for Ryan’s benefit and peace of mind. I didn’t want it to be frightening for him. My father passed away, as did my grandparents and uncles, so Ryan always knew there were angels looking out for him and for all of us.”

“We know he had a happy life.”

— Don Dillon, Ryan’s father

Describing Ryan as kind, gentle and happy, his father said, “He was always smiling and always had a little joke or story to share about his family. Ryan didn’t have a want or need that wasn’t met by the community; people visited him, gave him hockey, baseball and football tickets and brought meals to the house.”

Dillon said his son’s death still hasn’t sunken in. “It doesn’t feel

final, yet, that he’s not home with us,” he said. “But we have no regrets. We know we tried everything we could, and we know he had a happy life. We feel fortunate to have had the time we did with him. There are so many things he taught us, especially the importance of family. You have to love and take care of each other because, one day, you may not be here.”

RYAN’S MOTHER said he taught her to never lose hope. “You live life to its fullest and find the positive in everything,” she said. “Even though Ryan’s gone, we know he’s cancer-free and no longer in pain. So that’s got to be better for him – although it’s not better for us. And he’ll always live on in our hearts and in our thoughts.”

“When we look around, we see things that remind us of him, and that’s OK,” she continued. “The kids need to see us grieve because that gives them permission to grieve, too, show their feelings and feel good about talking about Ryan. And if it makes us cry or smile, that’s OK.”



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A Wrong Way to Feel Cool

Viewpoints

Area high school students discuss risky behaviors.

The Connection high school interns – **Nikki Cheshire** (Langley High), **Monika Bapna** (Marshall High) and **Mary Grace Oakes** (Madeira) – asked area high school students:

- What type of risky behaviors do some youth engage in and what do you think poses the greatest risk?
- Are there certain activities that can lend themselves more to risky behavior because of the nature of the group?

Here are their responses.



Sherwin Zahirieh, Grade: 12, Langley High School

“People drive recklessly, risking their life, which can obviously result in disaster. People do all sorts of drugs and drink alcohol every weekend. Drunk driving definitely poses the greatest risk, since people think they’re invincible.”



Meigan McManus, Grade: 12, Langley High School

“I think something like drunk driving is especially risky. If a person is using drugs, it only really affects them, but drunk driving poses a highly dangerous situation toward other people.”



Adrienne Schmidt, Grade: 11, Langley High School

“When parents aren’t close with their child, they have the tendency to rebel. It depends on the person, but if you have a better relationship with your parents then risky behavior is less likely.”



Magne Bugten, Grade: 12, Langley High School

“Parties outside of school-related activities, definitely cause risky behavior. I feel like people who don’t do extracurriculars are more likely to party.”

—NIKKI CHESHIRE



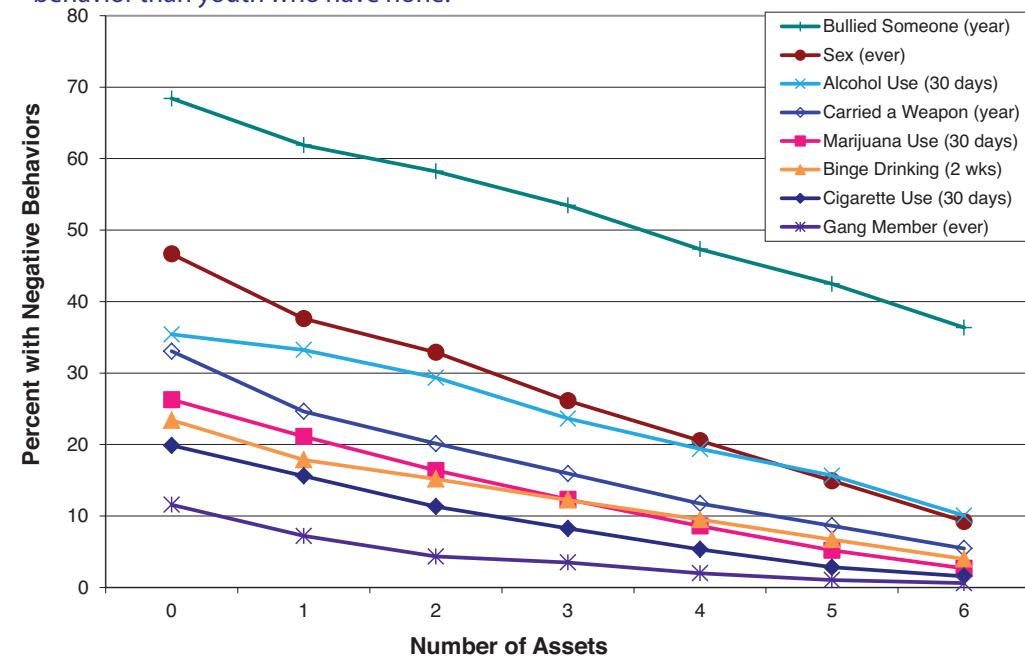
Sam Kyung, Grade: 11, Marshall High School

“The most risky behaviors in my opinion are drinking, and drinking and driving. Drinking and driving, though, poses the greater risk because it affects everybody.”

SEE VIEWPOINT, PAGE 11

Asset Graph for Fairfax County (Grades 8, 10, 12)

Three to Succeed: Youth who have three assets are less likely to engage in risky behavior than youth who have none.



High Personal Integrity
Perform Community Service
Teachers Recognize Good Work

Have Community Adults to Talk to
Participate in Extracurricular Activities
Parents are Available for Help

The 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey shows how the presence of at least three “assets” can dramatically reduce the odds of students engaging in risky behaviors such as sex, drug abuse and violent behaviors. Six assets are: high personal integrity, performing community service, being recognized by teachers for good work, having adults in the community to talk to, participating in extracurricular activities and having parents available to help.

Risky Behavior by the Numbers

Youth Survey highlights risks, assets for students.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

FIRST IN A THREE PART SERIES.

Periodically, Fairfax County conducts a youth survey which polls thousands of students to get a glimpse into issues of substance abuse, antisocial behaviors as well as factors such as mental health and civic engagements. This is the sixth year the survey has been conducted (the first was in 2001), and in the 2010 Fairfax County Youth Survey was completed by 32,953 students in eighth, 10th and 12th grade, representing 85.6 percent of enrolled students in those grades.

The survey was previously conducted in 2001, 2003, 2005, 2008, 2009 and 2010. Over time, more specific questions regarding risk factors and general health questions have been included. In 2008, the survey was administered in random English classrooms in every school, but in 2009 the county adopted a census-like approach, where all students in the targeted grades were encouraged to participate.

“For the last few years, we’ve conducted the survey every year, because it helps us learn about certain behaviors our youth are doing, and that’s information we can use to plan our prevention efforts,” said Marcus Allen of the county’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. “The data shows us the way behaviors are trending and we use that for short and long-term planning.”

Of the completed surveys, 2,554 were rejected due to fewer than eight questions answered, information

was missing, the student reported a use of a fictitious drug called BTM that was mentioned or a student answered “I was not honest at all” on the final question.

The survey itself consisted of 203 questions, which were derived from such sources as the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration’s Communities That Care Youth survey, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey and others.

A PRIMARY FOCUS of the 2010 survey was on “assets” by students, which, according to the survey are “strengths in young people, their families, schools and communities that help them thrive in health, in school and daily life and in a safe environment.”

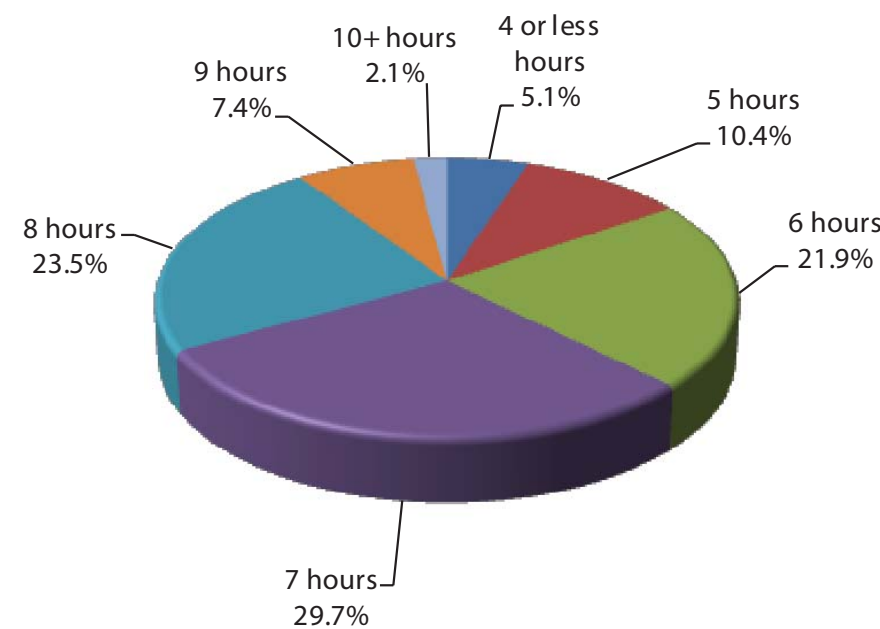
The county polled students on six of these: personal integrity, regular community service, recognition by teachers for good work, having adults to talk to, extracurricular activity participation and having parents available for help.

“We’ve found that the presence of three of these assets dramatically reduces the risk of these students engaging in risky behavior. It’s simple really: the more assets they have, the less likely it is they’re going to engage in these behaviors,” Allen said. “It’s not all negative, we want to make sure we’re reinforcing how important these assets are, because it directly affects the likelihood of success.”

For example, students with at least three assets are almost half as likely to have had sex, used marijuana in the last 30 days, binged on alcohol in the past two weeks, smoked a cigarette within the last 30 days or

Hours of Sleep per School Night (Grades 8, 10, 12)

Fairfax County



CONTRIBUTED

Viewpoints



Nick Nelson, Grade: 11, Marshall High School

“Fatigue, I think, is the biggest problem with teens these days. When students drive to school, for example, it can lead to so many accidents in the morning if they are tired.”

“Procrastination, extracurricular activities, and all the things that teenagers have to do these days causes fatigue.”



Joey Phoon, Grade: 11, Marshall High School

“Teenage parties are where most kids get access to these things, so any events that have a lot of teenagers together and no parent supervision lend themselves to alcohol and drug use.”

—MONIKA BAPNA



Annie Wattenmaker, Grade: 12, The Madeira School

“The most common risky behavior is drinking and driving. So many kids in this area drink and drive all the time without thinking of the risks.”



Kristen Bilowus, Grade: 12, The Madeira School

“I think DUIs pose the greatest risk to kids because so many deaths are caused by this every year, and the legal repercussions are so severe.”



Makenzie Parent, Grade: 12, The Madeira School

“Binge drinking is probably the most dangerous behavior because it can easily and rapidly get out of hand, causing hospitalizations.”

“I think when there is a big group involved, that group mentality creates more peer pressure, so kids might feel forced to do something they would not if they were just with a small group of friends.”



Jennifer Oler, Grade: 12, McLean High School

“I think drunk driving definitely poses the greatest risk because you’re not only putting yourself in danger but everyone else driving then too.”

“When there is a larger group of people, teenagers tend to do stupid things that they most likely wouldn’t do if they were by themselves or just with a couple of people.”

—MARY GRACE OAKES

Does Music Make Children Smarter?

During Music In Our Schools Month, musicians raise awareness of the impact of music education on the lives of students.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Can playing the piano strengthen a child's reading and math skills? Can joining a school band be a catalyst for building self-confidence? Does one develop strong analytical abilities by taking violin lessons? Some music experts say yes.

"Every minute that you're engaged in music, you're applying more than one concept or one knowledge," said Dr. Kevin Strogher, Head of Music at The Heights School in Potomac. "Music develops analytical thinking because it requires students to be creative. They don't just regurgitate memorized facts. They have to apply those facts."

March is Music in Our Schools Month and some music aficionados are trying to raise awareness about impact of music education on the lives of students. The National Association of Music Education in Reston cites a strong body of evidence which shows that participation in musical activities can enhance a student's education. "For today's students to succeed tomorrow, they need a comprehensive education that includes music taught by exemplary music educators," said Elizabeth Lasko, Assistant Executive Director, NAME. "Music In Our Schools Month gives music teachers the chance to...let everyone know how learning music benefits kids, and how it contributes to their growth and development both as students and as future adult citizens."

Instructors say playing music can boost brain power. "Music helps build and develop cognitive skills because you have to do three or four things at the same time to perform music," said Holly Vesilind, music instructor at Westgate Elementary School in Falls Church and a private flute instructor in Fairfax. "It builds math skills because it involves counting and fractions."

Experts say music activities can affect social development. "Music ensembles work much like team sports, students learn the necessity of teamwork and collaboration," said Dr. James Criswell, director of the Middle School advanced band and Upper School wind ensemble and orchestra at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

Strogher dispels the notion that the discipline attracts social misfits. "It is not just the choir geeks or the band nerds," he said. "When [The Heights Men's Chorus] was performing in Austria recently, we had the [school's] best lacrosse player with us, we



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Helen Fall of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra mentors students from the Sandburg Area Orchestra. Experts say students can benefit from exposure to professional musicians through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras.

had baseball players, basketball players. In fact, most of our top athletes are also in the music program. It is actually a cool thing to be in music."

So, what do students think? "Music allows people from different social groups to bond and come together over a common interest," said Connor Ortman, a sophomore at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

"Regardless of a student's level, participation in music education teaches the importance of teamwork and collaboration as a group as well as individual discipline and preparation, much like athletics," added St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School sophomore Kathryn Cavallo.

EXPERTS SAY early musical experiences benefit even the youngest musicians. "We focus on experiences, the process and overall music making through movement, singing and instrument playing," said Julie Mueller, a music teacher at Arlington's Jamestown Elementary School.

Earlier this month, the Jamestown Elementary School chorus joined other student choral groups from around the world for the "Concert for Music in Our School's Month," an annual musical experience sponsored by The National Association of Music Education. "Events like these are wonderful opportunities to encourage the

students to develop their musical abilities and to be part of activities with musicians from all over," said Dr. Maritza Sadowsky, a music teacher at Jamestown.

Music educators want musical interest to extend beyond a month-long effort. "We hope that because of advocacy efforts such as [Music in Our School's Month]...that parents will encourage their children to get and stay involved in music," said Lasko.

One means of involvement say educators is exposure to professional musicians through educational programs sponsored by local symphony orchestras. "Having been a school strings and band teacher, myself, I understand how the voices of professional musicians who come into the classroom can reinforce the instruction the teachers give," said Helen Fall, a Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Violist.

Hall and other FSO members mentor students as part of programs like Symphony Creating Outreach Resources for Educators (SCORE) and Overture to Orchestra. Overture to Orchestra is designed to introduce elementary school students to the instruments and sounds of a symphony orchestra through in-school concerts performed by chamber ensembles from the FSO. The SCORE program offers extensive master classes, individual sectional instruction, and "side-by-side" rehearsals to middle and high

Fairfax Symphony

Students may join the FSO Passport Club at the orchestra's next performance on Saturday, May 12, 2012, 8 p.m. (Students are encouraged to arrive by 7:30). George Mason University's Center for the Arts in Fairfax. The concert will feature pianist Adam Golka. Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

The Fairfax Symphony is also participating in the 2012 statewide initiative MINDS WIDE OPEN: Virginia Celebrates Children and the Arts. As a part of this celebration, students from the Woodburn Elementary School for the Fine and Communicative Arts in Falls Church will join the Student Passport Club and create artwork and poetry through arts integration projects in their school classrooms. The projects will be displayed at the FSO's performance on Saturday, May 12 at 8 p.m. at GMU's Center for the Arts.

school bands and orchestras.

"The students are always excited to have us come. They feel they are getting extra special attention, and having a pro on every instrument makes them all feel important," said Fall who teaches violin and viola in her home studio in Fairfax.

The FSO allows students ages 6-18 to join the Student Passport Club where members get \$5 tickets to symphony performances. Young music enthusiasts also have an opportunity to play symphonic instruments and meet members of the orchestra.

"The FSO concentrates on providing its programs to areas where students have limited access to private music instruction or consistent support for their music studies in the home," said Elizabeth Murphy, FSO President and CEO. "These are the students who will benefit most from one-on-one exposure to the instruments and professional musicians."

OFFICIALS FROM THE MCLEAN ORCHESTRA created the McLean Youth Orchestra (MYO) to cultivate the talent of musically advanced middle and high school students. "MYO students not only learn to read and play music better, but working with our conductors and section coaches, they also learn the discipline, team work, self-reliance and confidence required to be an effective ensemble member," said Aileen Pisciotta, President-Elect of the McLean Orchestra.

On Sunday, March 25, MYO musicians will present MYO Rocks! "This is [the orchestra's] first-ever 'fusion' concert," said Pisciotta. "The students will perform a couple of classical selections as well as accompany accomplished rock musicians on some current as well as classic rock favorites. This is an MYO outreach effort intended to be a really fun exposure to symphony music for teens who don't normally go to classical concerts."

MYO oboist and Vienna resident Elise Favia, believes the concert will be a hit with her peers. "I am really big on modern songs," said Favia, who is a 10th Grade Student at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria. "I actually don't like classical music as much as I do the others, but classical music on the oboe is fun because the oboe is used a lot."

Considering Private Music Lessons?

When should students start taking music lessons?

Between the ages of 5 and 6 for piano. Between the ages of nine and ten for wind instruments or band instruments because students have to have the lung capacity and the finger stretch to perform on the instrument.

What is a good first step?

The piano is a great instrument to start on because it plays in every key and gives students a deep understanding of musical harmony and how music works in terms of cords, melody and harmony.

— HOLLY VESILIND,

MUSIC INSTRUCTOR AT WESTGATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Exciting All-Star Afternoon

Concorde/Patriot All-Stars beat the Liberty/National team 109-108 in overtime.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Bryant Fultz wasn't among the top performers in the dunk contest during NVABBC all-star festivities on March 17, but the West Potomac senior made his mark during the main event.

Fultz threw down a fourth-quarter alley-oop dunk from fellow Wolverine Randall Brobbey, scored a team-high 15 points and earned game MVP honors as the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars defeated the Liberty/National team 109-108 in overtime at Wakefield High School. The all-star game featured some of the top players from the Northern Region, and matched a team composed of athletes from the Concorde and Patriot districts against players from the Liberty and National districts.

"With the dunk contest, it was really hard because I'm not really a trick dunker," Fultz said. "I'm more of a go-up-and-do-it kind of guy."

Fultz made up for any lack of flair in his dunk-contest performance. With the Concorde/Patriot squad leading by four late in regulation, Brobbey threw an alley-oop pass off the backboard, which Fultz slammed home for a 99-93 advantage.

"In practice," Fultz said, "we do it all the time for fun."

After the 3-point shootout, South County's Oren Burks held off Lake Braddock's Tyler Snow to win the dunk contest. Jumping over a human prop became the unofficial theme of the event. T.C. Williams' T.J. Huggins was one of the first to attempt the maneuver, leaping over fellow Titan Jordan Byrd, who stands 6 feet.

"It was his idea at the last minute," Byrd said. "I was just supposed to throw the [alley-oop]. He missed it a couple times and then at that time he just changed it and said, 'Can I dunk over you?' I said, 'Go ahead, I'll give it a try, but you better not hurt me.'"

THE ALL-STAR GAME provided an exciting end to the afternoon. The Liberty/National team overcame an 11-point second-half deficit to force overtime and held a one-point lead late in the extra period. But after allowing the go-ahead bucket to Hayfield's Nate McShay of the Liberty/National team, Huggins, the region Player of the Year, drove to the rim and scored the game-winner for the Concorde/Patriot team.

The Concorde/Patriot All-Stars, led by Woodson head coach Doug Craig, featured a balanced scoring attack. South County's Marquice Johnson and Westfield's Quentin Basil each scored 11 points, and Lake Braddock's Snow had 10. Centreville's Evan Fuller and Robinson's Robert Pillow each tallied nine points, while Huggins added eight.

Johnson, a rebounding force for the Stallions, said it took some time to settle into a rhythm while playing with athletes from other schools, but the teams



Robinson's Robert Pillow scored nine points for the Concorde/Patriot All-Stars during the NVABBC all-star game on March 17 at Wakefield High School.



Hayfield's Nate McShay led the Liberty/National All-Stars with 20 points at the NVABBC all-star game on March 17 at Wakefield High School.

eventually found a groove. He also said there was a relaxed approach in terms of competition, but that didn't stop hip from hustling.

Chantilly's Brady Caslavka (7 points), Robinson's Tristian Crenshaw (7), T.C. Williams' Byrd (6), Centreville's Robert Coker (5) and Lake Braddock's Brendan McHale (2) also competed for the Concorde/Patriot team.

Edison head coach Terry Henderson led the Liberty/National All-Stars. Henderson received a good-natured ribbing for calling a timeout in the closing seconds of the first half to design a play for Langley's Daniel Dixon. The play worked, as Dixon buried a 25-foot 3-pointer at the buzzer to give his team a 49-48 halftime lead.

"It's fun. You get some talent you don't normally have," Henderson said. "It's kind of like coaching at a private school or something. You've got your shooters, you've got big men [and] you've got ball handlers. I was like a kid in a candy store; I didn't know what to do and what to call."

Dixon, who also had the ball in his hands near the end of regulation and overtime, said he enjoyed having opportunities during crunch time.

The play prior to halftime "was drawn up to get me the ball, but probably in a different spot than near half-court," Dixon said. "But I just pulled it from there."

Hayfield's McShay led the Liberty/National team with 20 points. Dixon scored 17 points, South Lakes' J.D. Wallace finished with 15 and McLean's Gordon Rogo added 11.

Edison's Tyrone Mackall (9), Wakefield's Justin Glenn (8) and Corey Aldrich (5), McLean's Sango Amolo (7) and Thomas Van Wazer (6), South Lakes' Jordan Francis (4), Langley's Joey Robinson (4) and Marshall's Latrell Watkins (2) also competed.

Wakefield head coach Tony Bentley hosted the festivities for the third consecutive year. He said the all-star game was the best it has been and he enjoyed watching his players — Glenn and Aldrich — participate.

Game Reports Wanted

Coaches, team managers/parents - Please send high school team game results to sports editor Rich Sanders at richsand8@aol.com, or contact him on twitter at richsand8. In game reports, please include date and place of game, game highlights, team win-loss record, and any other newsworthy items. Photos are also accepted.



The SYC Storm White U-12 girls' soccer team captured first place in the Premier Division at the Arlington Invitational Spring Soccer Tournament March 10-11.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

The Springfield Youth Club (SYC) Storm White girls' soccer team kicked off their spring season with a resounding win at the highly competitive Arlington Invitational Spring Soccer Tournament, held March 10-11 in Arlington. Competing in the 11 versus 11 Premier Division, Storm White reached the 12-under finals where it defeated Arlington Chaos Red, 4-0, in the title game.

"We are very proud of the Storm players in their first 11 versus 11 tournament," said head coach Mark Heilbrun. "They showed great athleticism, skill and hard work, and brought a great deal of joy to these games. This provides a great foundation for the future for Storm White."

Storm White, under the guidance of coach Heilbrun, receives additional training from Gayle Smith Wilson.

The SYC Storm White also won an even bigger tournament this past weekend (March 16-17) - The Jefferson Cup in Richmond.

Storm White is generously sponsored by local businesses Kay Jennings Springfield Toyota; Mannix Heating and Cooling; Peter K. Cocolis, Jr., DMD, Family and Cosmetic Dentistry; Elhady Orthodontics; and Glory Days Grill. The team is part of the Springfield/South County Youth Club in the Washington Area Girls Soccer (WAGS) League. Team members come from throughout Northern Virginia, including Fairfax Station, Lorton, Alexandria, Burke and Centerville.

The Reston Raiders PeeWee AA Blue youth ice hockey team has had a season of exceeding expectations.

Coached by Dave Regan, the locals amassed 24 points and put together an 11-7-2 record in the competitive CBHL. The Raiders' season will continue on as they were honored by a selection to represent Virginia at the 12-under U.S. National Championships, set to take place here at home (Ashburn and Reston) from March 28 through April 1.

The tournament will consist of 38 of the best Tier II teams in the U.S., including state champions from Florida to Connecticut and Vermont, as well as Alaska, California, and Arizona and others. All of the Reston Blue players are from Northern Virginia, including Vienna, Fairfax, Reston, McLean, Great Falls, and Prince William County. Local fans are encouraged to come out and support these local athletes as they play for a National title.

One member of the Reston Raiders team is Chris Weiss, son of nationally renowned figure skating star and former Olympian Michael Weiss. Michael grew up and trained in Fairfax and later trained in Reston. He, Chris and the rest of the Weiss family currently reside in McLean. Michael runs a foundation to support Olympic hopefuls.

NoVa West Lacrosse is now accepting registrations to try out for its 2012 Summer Select Teams. Tryouts will be held April 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20 and 27, with teams being announced on May 28. NoVa West Lacrosse plays in the most competitive recruiting tournaments during the summer. It also has assembled an outstanding coaching staff. Register today for a try-out at www.novawestlax.com

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28 Yard Sales

Yard Sale - 8:00 am to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 24, Atherstone Court in Burke. Clothing (women's sizes), furniture, books, VHS movies, elementary school teaching supplies, jewelry, kitchenware, rugs and more.

29 Misc. for Sale

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Sliding, top-quality, frosted glass doors w/towel bars for tub enclosure. Easy clean track. 58x56 1/2, \$35. W. Spr. 703-569-3019

21 Announcements

PUBLIC NOTICE
City of Fairfax
* The deadline to register to vote in the City of Fairfax May 1st General Election is Monday, April 9, 2012. You may register at the Sisson House, 10455 Armstrong Street during normal business hours of 8:30am - 5pm.

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice to creditors and debtors of Julius Rodriguez. Durwin Rodriguez as executor of estate of Julius Rodriguez. Late of 8201 Crossbrook Ct. Lorton VA 22079. The undersigned does hereby notify all person firms and corporations having claims against the estate of said deceased, to exhibit them to the undersigned at 5012 PO box Galt CA 95624.

All persons or this recovery on or before May 2, 2012 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of recovery. All persons, firms or corporations in debted to set estate will please make immediate payment to undersigned Durwin Rodriguez, executor of the estate of Julius Rodriguez. 8201 Crossbrook Ct. Lorton, VA 22079

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21 Announcements

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

Purpose of notice: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow the filling of wetlands and streams for the improvement and realignment of Lorton Road (Route 642) and Furnace Road (Route 611) in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Public comment period: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper: MONTH DAY, YEAR to MONTH DAY, YEAR)

Permit name: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board

applicant Name, address and permit number: Fairfax County Department of Transportation, 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, Virginia 22032; WVPP No. 11-1460

Project description: Fairfax County Department of Transportation has applied for a new permit for the Lorton Road widening project which consists of improvements and widening to 2.8 miles of Furnace Road and Lorton Road. The project site is located along both sides of Lorton Road (Route 642) from its intersection with Ox Road (Route 123) to Silverbrook Road (Route 600), and along Furnace Road (Route 611) from its intersection with Lorton Road to Ox Road in Fairfax County. The permit would affect approximately 1.34 acres (2,927 linear feet) of surface waters, consisting of permanent impacts to 0.92 acre of palustrine forested wetland and 0.30 acre (2,313 linear feet) of stream channel, and temporary impacts to 0.12 acre (614 linear feet) of stream channel. The activity proposed in the permit will affect Giles Run and unnamed tributaries to Giles Run in the Potomac River watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To compensate for the affected area, the applicant will purchase 1.84 wetland credits from the Loudoun County Wetlands and Stream Restoration Bank and 5,304 stream condition units from the Northern Virginia Stream Restoration Bank. DEQ's preliminary decision is to approve the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: DEQ accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requester, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

Contact for public comments, document requests and additional information: Margaret Quigley; Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, Virginia 22193; Phone: (703) 583-3892; E-mail: Margaret.Quigley@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (703) 583-3821. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed below.

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