Burke
CONNECTION

By Alexis DeLeon,
Cherry Run ES,
Grade 4

Children's Connection 2011

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FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Transportation News and Inclement Weather Guidelines from Fairfax County Public Schools

Coming in January: The Superintendent's Proposed FY2013 Budget

FCPS Buses by the Numbers

FCPS operates one of the largest publicly owned fleets in the country. More than 1,500 school buses, using 6,500 separate routes, transport more than 110,000 students to school each day.

The average FCPS bus is 8.1 years old. Depending on the school district budget, FCPS purchases an average of 95 buses a year. When it comes time to replace a bus, the FCPS transportation department purchases buses that meet or exceed federal and Virginia state safety standards, have a record of reliability, have low projected average total cost of ownership with durable parts to minimize down time, and is sold by a dealership that provides an acceptable level of service and responsiveness. The average purchase price for a new bus is $114,000.

Did You Know

Only New York City Department of Education transports more students by bus than Fairfax County Public Schools every day.

When the Weather Outside is Frightful

The holidays may be almost behind us but there is still plenty of winter ahead of us. Are you prepared?

Hat and mittens? Check. Shovel? Check. Ice scraper? Check.

But if you have children in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), do you know where to get information about school closings and delays due to the weather conditions?

Whether snowflakes are fluttering or raindrops are pouring, Fairfax County Public Schools monitors weather conditions all year round. Weather conditions may necessitate schools open two hours late, close two hours early, or that school will be canceled for an entire day.

Students use various methods to get to school – they walk, take a bus, get dropped off by a parent, ride with another student, or drive themselves. The safety of students, staff, and parents is the primary consideration when FCPS is making a weather-related decision about schools.

If an impending weather event is forecast, FCPS staff gathers information about weather, road conditions, mobilization plans from transportation sources, and other information to determine the impact on the school system. Weather conditions can vary significantly in different parts of the county. Often major roadways are in good driving condition, but neighborhood roads may be treacherous. The Superintendent is given the most up-to-date information from various sources in an effort to make a decision by 4:30 a.m. on whether to delay opening schools or cancel school for the day. If weather conditions worsen during the school day, the Superintendent may make a decision to close schools two hours early. Once the decision is made, the information can be found in the following locations:

- www.fcps.edu
- Red Apple Channel 21
- Keep in Touch email and text notifications
- FCPS Facebook page
- FCPS Twitter page
- Local tv news and radio stations

If school is canceled, the School Aged Child Care (SACC) program run by the Fairfax County Government, is also canceled for the day. Parents should have a plan for any last-minute child-care arrangements if schools and SACC programs are closed.

This Just In

The Fairfax County School Board approved the 2012-13 school calendar. The first day of school will be Tuesday, September 4, 2012, and the last day of school will be Tuesday, June 18, 2013.
View the complete calendar by visiting www.fcps.edu and click on Calendars.

Getting To Know Us

FCPS Bus Driver ***Art Hurlock***

Art Hurlock spends his days transporting more than 100 students to and from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS).

Hurlock became a FCPS driver 11 years ago after managing the automobile maintenance shop for a large company. Although his wife would like him to join her in retirement, he says he has no intention of retiring any time soon.

"I really enjoy it. I like driving and I like the kids," he said. "That's why I'm still here."

FCPS has one of the largest school bus fleets in the nation traveling on more than 2,700 miles of roadway in Fairfax County.

"It's pretty amazing how the school district creates bus routes to make sure all the kids get to school," he said.

Knowing parents are relying on him to transport their children safely to and from school is not something Hurlock takes lightly. He admits the traffic in Northern Virginia is particularly challenging on snowy days.

"When I get home after driving in snowy weather, I just say, that was some day. I'm not just thinking about the 30 kids on my bus, but there are 60 parents who are counting on me too," Hurlock said.

He's been driving the same bus for the more than four years and logged more than 100,000 thousand miles on it.

"I really like what I do. I like the kids. I would say 99 percent of the kids are good and the parents are good to me too," he said.

Safe Routes to Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools is proud to participate in Safe Routes to Schools, an international effort to encourage more families to get out of their cars and onto their feet to enjoy the many benefits of safely walking and bicycling to school. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to school and to work with their PTA or PTO to organize walking events.

"Walking is a simple way to incorporate exercise into your day," said FCPS Superintendent Jack D. Dale. "We encourage all FCPS students and families to participate in this program and walk or bike to school whenever possible."

The program promotes physical activity, pedestrian safety, and concern for the environment. Several Fairfax County public schools have established a Safe Routes to School program and participate in bike and walk to school challenges.

For more information visit www.saferoutesinfo.org/.

Be a School Bus Driver for Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools has more than 1,200 bus drivers on its transportation team. Their primary goal is to ensure that students are transported safely to and from school. If you have a good driving record, enjoy working with children of all ages, can pass a physical exam and drug and alcohol screening, and have the ability to complete training, you are eligible to apply for a position. Starting pay begins at $17.07 per hour, with five weeks of paid training. Learn more about how to become an FCPS bus driver at www.fcps.edu and click on Work for FCPS.

Stay informed about all the latest news from FCPS at www.fcps.edu. Check us out on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Watch the most recent School Scene and Insight broadcasts on Red Apple Channel 21.

This year's *State of Schools Report* courtesy of **Apple Federal Credit Union**

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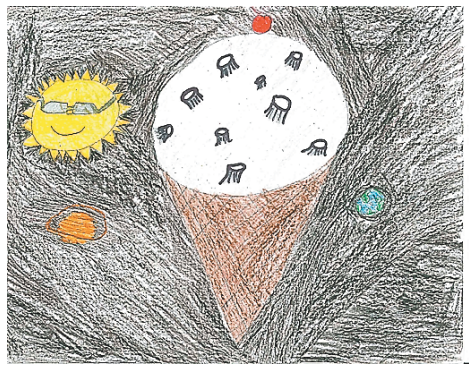
Kristine Pham, Cherry Run ES, 2nd grade

By McKinely Mullen, Cherry Run ES, 5th grade



By Alisa Viwatdechakul, Cherry Run ES, 4th grade

Welcome

Dear Readers:

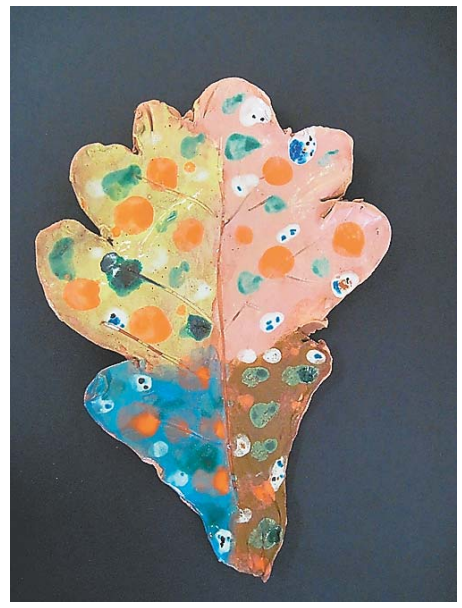
This week, the Burke Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2012 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.



By Michaela Brennan, Cherry Run ES, 1st grade

By Ilara Pritchard, 10, Fairview ES, 4th Grade

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to south@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

Editor Kemal Kurspahic

By Madison Flynn, Cherry Run ES, 4th grade

Poetry from Robinson

The True Meaning of Christmas

By Hannah Earl/Grade 8
Robinson Secondary School

It's Christmas time.
You know what that means.
It means that the population of the world
Is going to be spending a lot of money
On material products
Whatever happened to Christmas being a time of giving?
Now it's a time of getting to the world
I fear the true spirit of Christmas may be lost.
No, it's not going to be.
You may say that Christmas is a time of presents and parties,
But I know the truth and I want to spread it around the world.
Christmas is a time of giving,
Of family, friends, and being happy
That message has been lost to most of the world's children,
But the spark of it can become a wildfire.
So just remember,
As you open your forty presents this year:
There is more to Christmas than presents and parties,
Than ribbons bows and Christmas trees.
Christmas is a time for giving.
It's a time to spend with family and friends.
So, as the Grinch has done as well,
Make your heart grow
And the true Christmas spirit will come to you.

Carpe diem

By Ben Eisen/Grade 8
Robinson Secondary School

Wake up, it's a brand new day!
The sun is shining brighter than yesterday!
The shadows of yesterday cease to exist
As the night gives way to the light.
The birds awaken to a crisp new morning,
The sun arises to a sleepy world,
Put down your coffee mugs, working nation!
It's Saturday, get out and enjoy it!
There are no diseases on the weekend,
All colds are gone by 10 o'clock,
It's two more days of freedom,
From boring old school and work.
Go forth, men and women and build your ties,
To a family strengthened by love,
That all come together, these two days,
For football and little leagues and fun!
Lay down your sadness, your anger, your shame!
Pick up your humor, your friendship, your kindness!
The darkness of the past is yesterday,
The light at the end of the tunnel is today.

Rose

By Kathy Tran/Grade 7
Robinson Secondary School

Its thorns are sharp and jagged
Yet it still pulls you in with its allure
To resist its charm
Would only end in failure

Its petals curled so perfectly
Impeccable
Not a flaw to see
Its hues call out to you
Pulling you in
Deeper and deeper

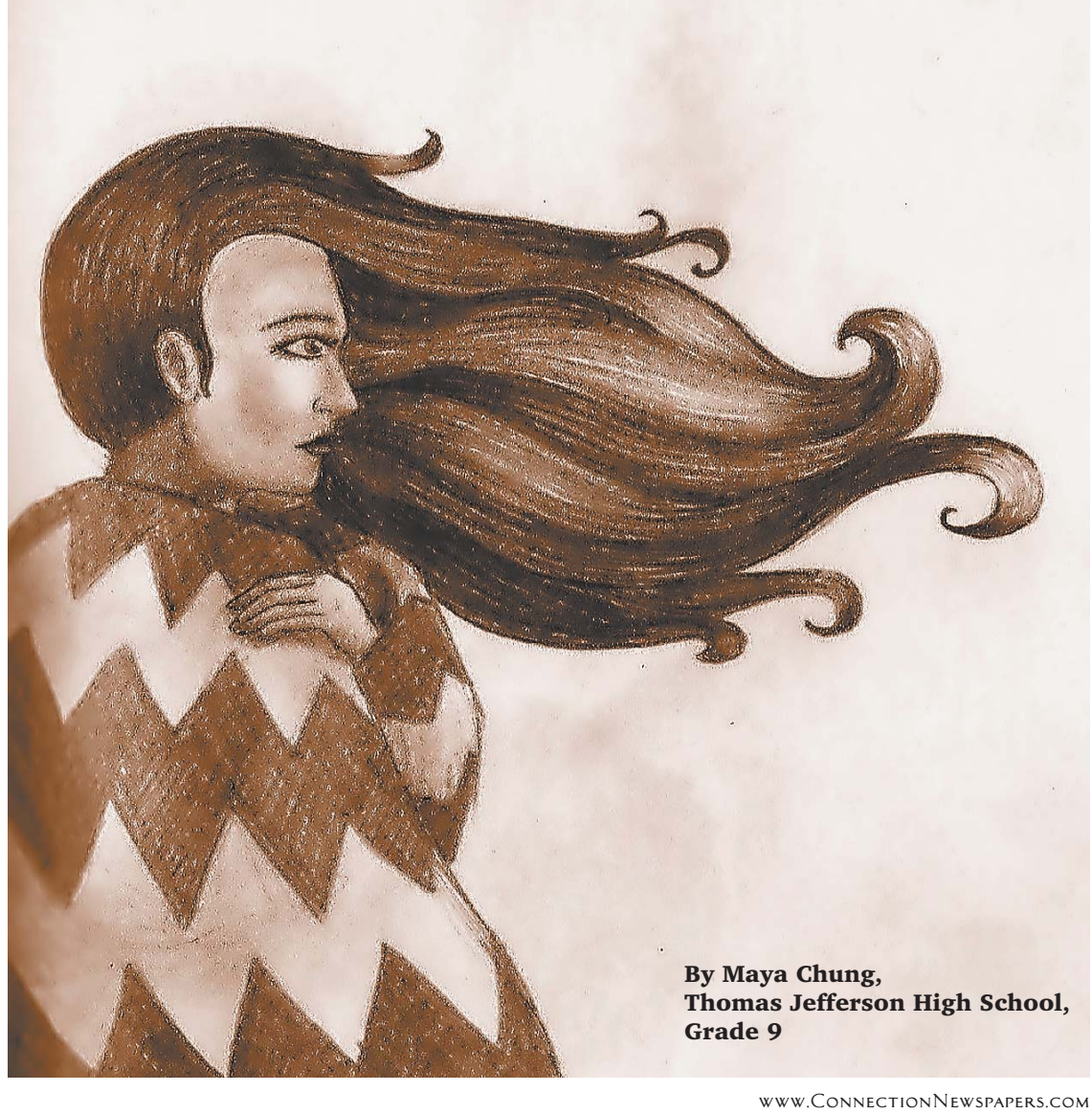
It starts out as a simple bud
No one could ever believe
That just a tiny thing
An insignificant piece of Mother Nature,
Could ever bloom into such a glorious treasure

What Disney Taught Us

By Emily Sawin and Claire Buckholz
Robinson Secondary/Grade 7

Ariel taught us to never give up on something we love,
And Belle taught us that even something ugly can be beautiful on the inside.
Dumbo taught us that it's okay to be different.
And Jasmine taught us that there's life outside our "palace walls"
Snow White taught us that if you sing to birds they help you clean your cottage.
And Pinocchio taught us that we shouldn't lie.
Pocahontas taught us that we can all live in peace. Together as one.
Bambi taught us that if you don't have anything nice to say, "Don't say nothin' at all."
And Cinderella taught us that love is magical, you just have to believe in it.
Winnie the Pooh taught us that "you are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."
Mulan taught us that anyone can be a hero; you just have to want it bad enough.
Peter Pan taught us that you should stay young forever.
Sleeping Beauty taught us that true love conquers all.
Sully and Mike taught us that society can be wrong sometimes
Rapunzel taught us that someday, no matter how locked up we feel, our prince will save us.
Nemo taught us that we can have adventure, (Dory taught us how to make whale sounds.)
But Disney taught us that dreams really do come true.
I watch as the color slowly slides down the walls.

By Maya Chung, Thomas Jefferson High School, Grade 9



By Maya Chung, Thomas Jefferson High School, Grade 9

What Does SNOWMAN Stand For?

By third graders at Fairview Elementary.

By Abby Krug

Soft and scarfy
Not on the naughty list
Out in the cold
Wild, wet and white
Melts in the sun
A noun out in the cold
Nothing like me

By Andrea Ornelas

Scarf from grandma
Nose from carrots
Oreo buttons
White body is …
Made by lots of children around the world for others to see
Awesome details
Nice for Santa

By Aaliyah Johnson

Snowmen are white
Nothing is better than a snowman
Out in the cold snow
When you make him, put clothes on him
Many children love to build him
Anyone can have a blast making him
Noses are made out of carrots

By Courtney Wasserott

Snow is water that falls to the earth as frozen crystals
No one dislikes a snowman
One carrot on the nose
Winter
Many kids love them
Anyone can make one
Nothing better than a snowman

By Richard Carsten

Snowman
Noun
On snow
Wonderful
Made of snow
Awesome
No fire

By Summer Komol, Cherry Run ES, 1st grade

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White Oaks Elementary Art Gallery

By Devin Haley,
White Oaks Elementary,
grade 3

By Sophie Shanley,
White Oaks Elementary,
grade 3

By Samuel Rhee,
White Oaks Elementary,
grade 3

By Joy Zhang, White Oaks Elementary, grade 3

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On his 3rd tour in Iraq in 2008, Spc. Josh Schictl was driving a Humvee which was hit by two IED's. He suffered life-threatening injuries to his face and head. Despite the quick work of medics, Spc. Schictl lost his right eye and nine teeth. Nearly all of the bones in his face were broken but were stabilized before transport to Walter Reed Medical Center. He also suffered a TBI.

Wounded warriors and their families struggle for years to recover physically, emotionally and financially from the sacrifices they make in wartime. Operation Homefront seeks to walk with them on their journey and ease the hardships they face. The DC Metro Chapter assisted Josh and Emily with transitional housing, household furnishings, holiday gifts and grocery gift cards during these difficult times.

There are many ways you can work with the DC Metro Chapter to assist local military families like Josh and Emily.

People ask us everyday how they can show their appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifices made by military families. One way you can do this is to let the DC Metro Chapter fill the gap for military families as they adjust to the 'new normal' after being deployed or wounded in combat. Send your tax deductible donation before Dec. 31st to help us meet next year's needs.

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or tag your donations with
the catchphrase "support our troops"

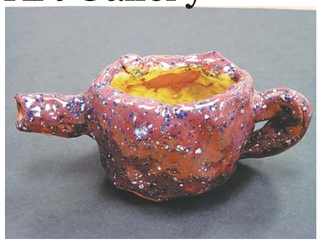
By Sophie Fernandez, Cherry Run ES, 5th grade

By Yudith Flores-Barrera, Cherry Run ES, 3rd grade

By Damion Nguyen, Cherry Run ES, KG

Children's Connection 2011

Cherry Run Elementary Art Gallery



By Karishma Setia, Cherry Run ES, 6th grade

Gabrielle Moffitt, Cherry Run ES, 2nd grade

By Uriel Kim, Cherry Run ES, 5th grade

By Elise Gavin, Cherry Run ES, grade 4, Bird Connection

A flock of 'origami angry birds', by Liam Brennan and Charlene Pham, grade 4, Cherry Run ES

By Beth Reddy, Cherry Run ES , grade 4

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reflections from Lake Braddock Secondary School

When I Grow Up

Have you ever wondered what the future has in store for you? I dream about it all the time. When I grow up I want to be a professional soccer player. I've been playing the sport my whole

life and it's my way to express myself, relieve stress, and just have fun. "Nice dream but that's impossible." I've heard that from a lot of people like my parents, teachers, and friends. Everyone doubts it except for that little voice inside my head that tells me "You've got this! Never give up."

—William Escobar, Grade 7

What do you want to be when you grow up?

When I grow up, I want to be an Army Ranger, an Army Green Beret, and a member of Delta Force. Before I become a member of these units, I plan on graduating from WestPoint, the Army Academy. My dad is a retired Army Green Beret, and my great uncle, prior to the Vietnam War, started the modern day JSOC (Joint Special Operations Command) unit, Delta Force. Men of this unit are some of the most highly trained soldiers in the U.S. military. These are all things I plan on doing when I grow up.

—Travis Catina, Grade 7

The Best Gift Ever Received

The best gifts I have ever received are Disney stocks, which are given to me by my parents every year, instead of having birthday parties. Even though birthday parties seemed fun, I am now happy to own Disney shares instead of having birthday celebrations because I have learned how to invest stocks and how to be responsible with money. Additionally, I hope that one day, my Disney shares will increase greatly in price so I can help those who are less fortunate in the world.

—Alexander Lin, Grade 7

Favorite Animal

My favorite animal is the dog, scientifically known as Canis lupus familiaris. The dog is an amazing animal. It is basically a domesticated version of the wolf. Wolves were domesticated roughly 15,000 years ago. They were very important to early cultures, helping with things like hunting or pulling loads.

This earned them the name "man's best friend."

My favorite breeds are the English bulldog, the Newfoundland, and the Siberian husky. They are my favorite because: My godfather owns a Newfoundland named Ruf. My uncle used to own a husky

named Yukon, who we unfortunately had to put to sleep. And I own an English bulldog named Frederik the Great, or just Fredy. I think dogs are awesome. Dogs are companions who are always playing and looking out for you. This is why dogs are my favorite animal.

—Nik Lazaroae, Grade 7

My all-time favorite animal is the human because I am a human and also because we are very intelligent. We have adapted quickly so we basically dominate the Earth. No other animal is above us. We know how to make our own medicine when we are sick and unhealthy. When we need protection we build powerful high tech weapons that could destroy the surface of the Earth. We figure out why and how everything works and are still solving mysteries today. That is why humans, are my favorite animals.

—Christina Oh, Grade 7

Being a Good Parent

I have several opinions on what makes a good parent. A lot of kids might say that they should get you whatever you want, never get mad, and always clean up after you. That doesn't make a good parent; it makes a *desirable* parent. A good parent should have lots of qualities, such as being helpful, respectful, occasionally generous, and responsible. Along with those qualities from a parent, their child needs to show them those qualities also. If a child shows attitude and irresponsibility, then the parent shouldn't allow that to continue, but should also not be strict or mean.

— Anu Trivedi, Grade 7

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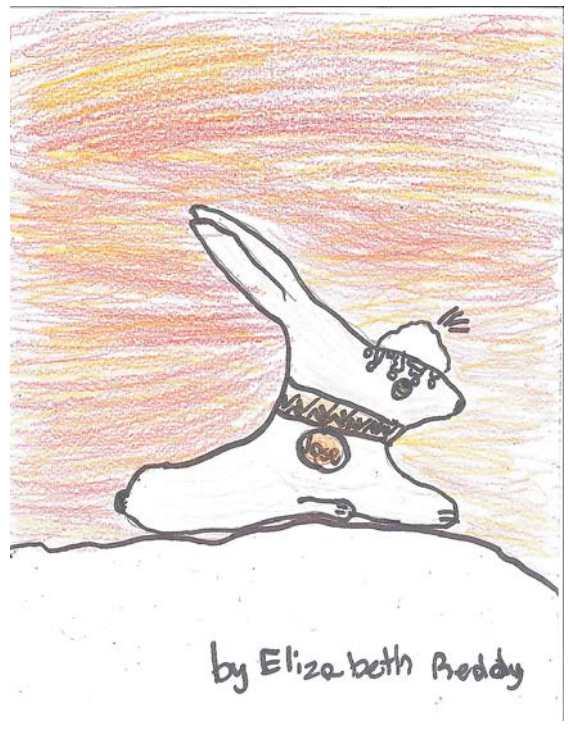
Children's Connection 2011

Meet Some of the Best Friends

By Heave Nahra, South County Secondary School, Grade 8

By Emily Carrion, Kings Glen Elementary, Grade 5



By Beth Reddy, Cherry Run ES, Grade 4

By Naomi Joseph, Springfield Estates Elementary, Grade 2

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The Rabbit Rescue

By Delaney Reese,
grade 4, Cherry Run ES

On November 27, my family was dropping off all the family pets at Just Fur Pets. So, when my mom and brother got there with our dog, Remi, and our rabbit, Rabbiticus, there was a Rottweiler. When the Rottweiler spotted Rabbiticus, he was thinking: SNACK. With that dog eagerly getting closer, his owner, thank goodness, pulled his leash. But if Jacob let go of that rabbit, that Rottweiler would have gotten her. I'm so glad that he kept hold of her.

In the Water

By Garrett Whitaker,
grade 4, Cherry Run ES

One day in Branson, Missouri, I went tubing with my friend, Parker. Before we started, we rented the tube. Then we drove the boat towards the middle of the lake. When we got to the middle of the lake, the parents asked who wanted to go first? Parker and me said we would go first because we were the oldest kids. But when we got on the tube, we didn't know how to tube.

We were leaning forward and when they started to drive the tube flipped over in the water. We couldn't get back on the tube but we had to get back on the tube! SO we had to get back on the boat to get back on the tube. That's how we ended up in the water.

THE END.

What It's Like

By Maya Chung,
Thomas Jefferson
High School,
Grade 9

Do you know what it's like
To take the weight off your shoulders
To run freely on air
And to glow?

Do you know what it's like
To obey people's orders
To have it pay off
And to know?

Do you know what it's like
To find what you worked for
To look in the light
And to see?

Do you know what it's like
To be saved by the sore
To find their heart
And agree?

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Church of the Good Shepherd 703-323-5400
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 703-455-2500

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St. Stephen's United Methodist Church 703-978-8724

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Calvary Christian Church 703-455-7041
Knollwood Community Church 703-425-2068

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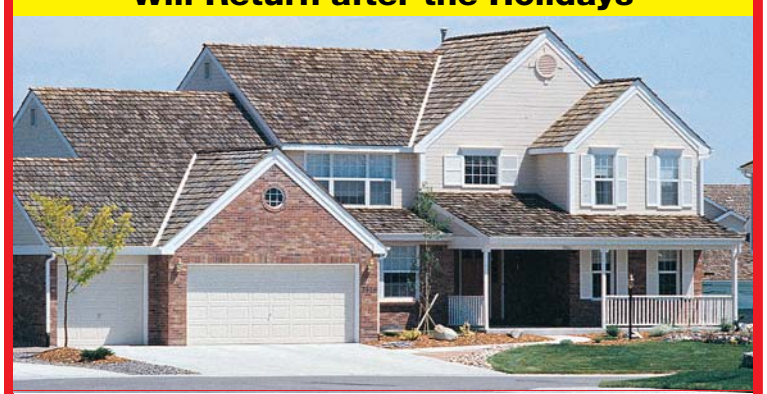
OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS
Will Return after the Holidays



To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call 703-821-5050

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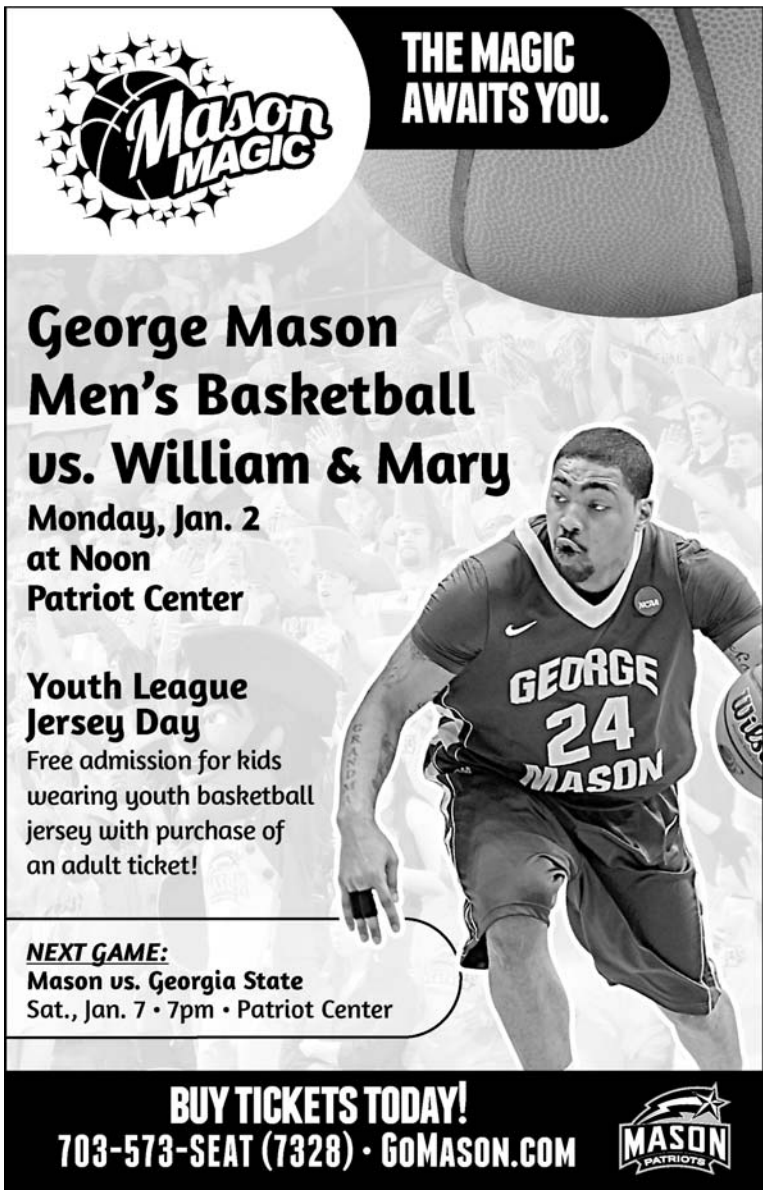


Children's Connection 2011

Mrs. Zavaleta's 4th graders at Cherry Run Elementary thinking about the season of Thanks and Giving:

I make a card to leave with my Grammy every time I go to her house.

-Elise Gavin

I send my family in India paintings by me.

-Shaan Setia

I make my sisters a breakfast sandwich when my mom's asleep.

-Liam Brennan

When I break stuff my dad or grandpa fixes it and when they break stuff I help fix it.

-Zach Niles

I gave my cousin Sophie a pretty blue t-shirt.

-Alexis DeLeon

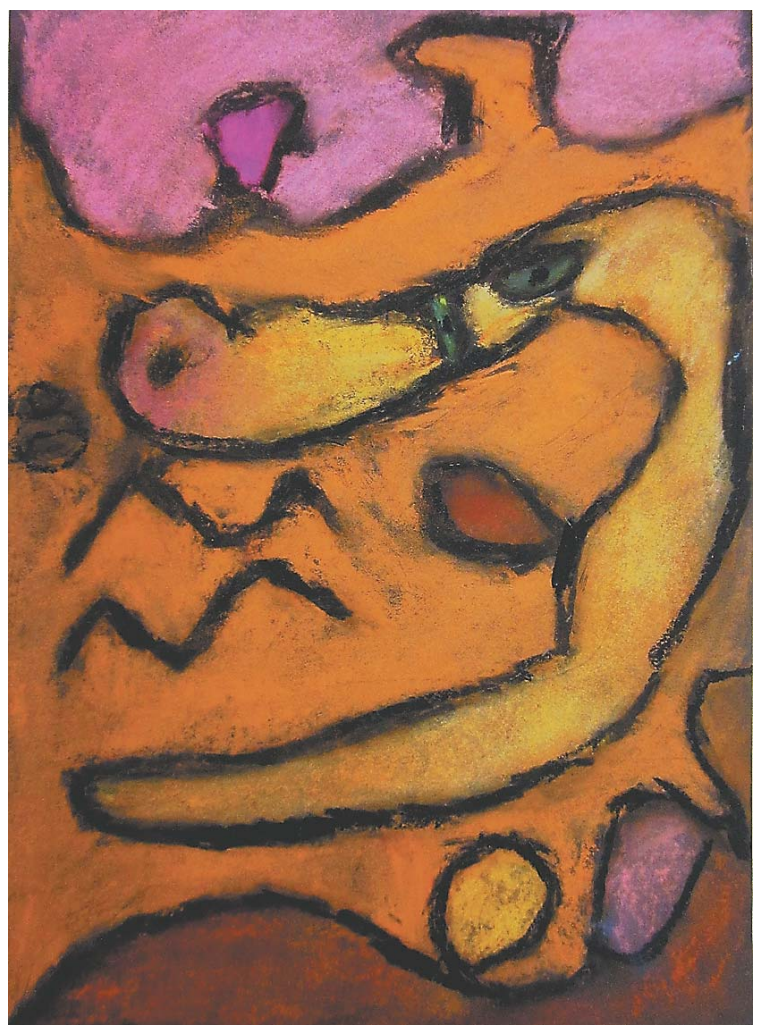
I listen to my cousin Alex play the violin.

-Angela

My sister lives to borrow my Polly Pocket radio.

-Stephanie Kent

By Selah Haywood-Philbert, Good Shepherd Preschool



Joshua Sauter, White Oaks Elementary, grade 3

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Join the team of professionals at a growing, progressive eye care practice in Burke, VA. Requires excellent communication skills, ability to multi-task and work with a large volume of patients. Duties include answering phones, checking in patients, and assisting dtors. Experience with computer, billing and insurance a plus, but willing to train. Includes Saturdays (8:00 to 1:00 p.m.).
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www.nvtc.dbhds.virginia.gov

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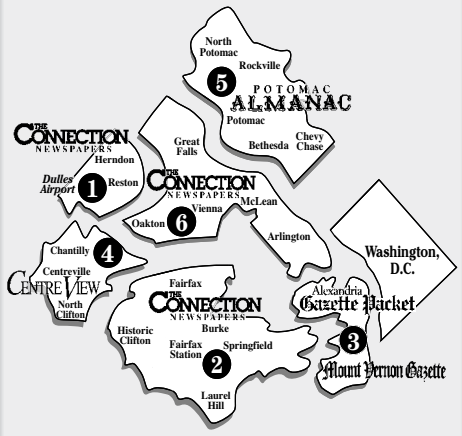

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21 Announcements

Obituary

Donald R. Rogers

Donald R. Rogers, 78 of Woodford, formerly of Woodbridge, died Monday December 12, 2011. He had retired after 38 years as chief electrical supervisor at Ft. Belvoir and then retired again from Prince William County, as an electrical inspector. He also served as a Prince William County Sheriff Auxiliary Deputy for many years. He enjoyed drag racing and had one numerous races and trophies. Survivors include his wife, Pearl C. Rogers; a daughter, Donna Page and her husband Tom; a brother, Caroll L. "Puddy" Rogers; two grandchildren, Thomas Allen "TJ" Page Jr. and Angela Christine Page; two great grandchildren, Michael Patrick Allen "Mick" Page and Kendall Leighann Page. He was preceded in death by a brother, Ralph Rogers. A funeral service will be held Saturday December 17th at 11:00 AM in the chapel of Storke Funeral Home, Bowling Green, with burial to follow in Stafford Memorial Park. The family will receive friends at the funeral home, Friday, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Sign register book online at www.storkefuneralhome.com

21 Announcements

NOTICE
Edward E. Gahres, MD is closing his medical practice at 5021 Seminary Rd, Ste 109, Alexandria, VA, on December 31, 2011. Patients interested in requesting copies of their medical records should call (703) 931-7515 between 10 am and 4 pm, Mon., Tues. and Thurs.

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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34 Pets

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Pizzarolli, Inc trading as Angelicos La Pizzeria, 10869 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax, VA 22030. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on/off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Damla Mehtap Kamis, owner - president
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

ABC LICENSE
Snookah, LLC trading as Snookah, 7104 Brookfield Plaza, Springfield, VA 22150. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Qamar U. Zaman President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to the Board no later than 30 days from the date of the first of two required newspaper publications. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

26 Antiques

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21 Announcements

Fairfax Water

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/REDEVELOPMENT

On December 6, 2011, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) held a public hearing regarding an ordinance to establish exclusive water service areas and maximum allowable rates, fees, and charges within Fairfax County for water service. At the same meeting, the BOS enacted the ordinance as Section 65-6-13 of the Code of Fairfax County. Section (a) of the ordinance provides that effective 12:01 a.m. December 7, 2011, Fairfax Water will be the provider of retail public water service within Fairfax County, Virginia, for any new construction or redevelopment of any dwelling unit and any residential or non-residential structure, unless Fairfax Water determines it cannot make water service available due to a utility-related reason.

The ordinance requires that any determination by Fairfax Water that it cannot make service available be made in accordance with policies, rules, or regulations established by Fairfax Water for the purpose of establishing when a utility-related reason exists that prevents it from supplying water. The ordinance further requires that the policies, rules, or regulations be adopted by Fairfax Water after notice and a public hearing.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed CONNECTION RULE FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION/ REDEVELOPMENT. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

A copy of the proposed rule can be viewed on our Web site at http://www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed rule should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.

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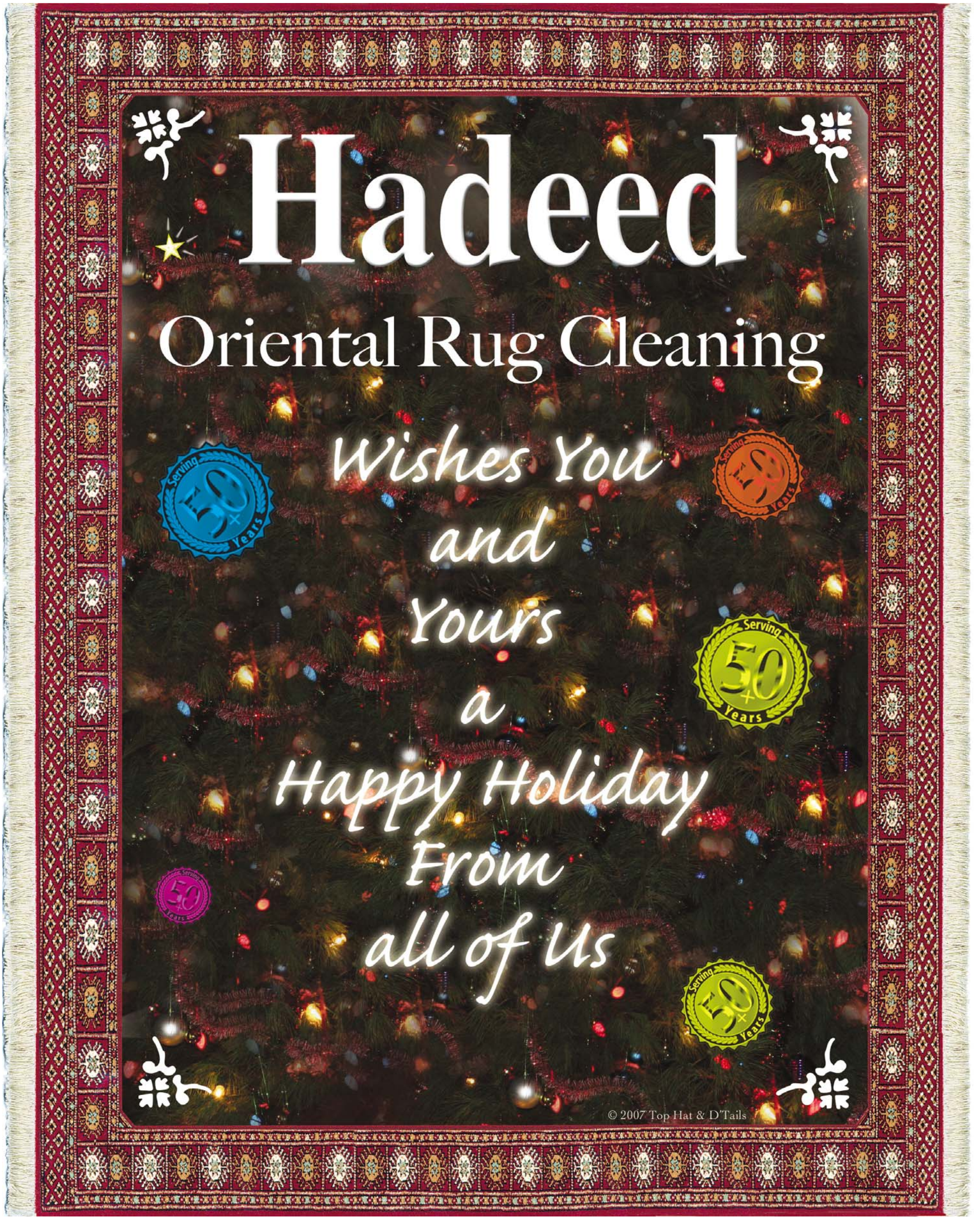
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