



December 1, 2011

“The Perils of the College Drinking Culture” 2012 Forums Kick Off in January

College-bound Fairfax County students and their parents are encouraged to attend an upcoming program that deals with the binge drinking on college campuses. “The Perils of the College Drinking Culture” forums will be presented by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) and its Countywide Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking, in collaboration with the Fairfax County Police Department and the Safe Community Coalition. The first program, coordinated by the McLean High School PTSA, will be held Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. at McLean High School.

The two-hour event will feature a screening and panel discussion on the award-winning documentary, *Haze*, designed for parents and their college-bound teens, and for any citizens concerned about underage drinking. Parents are encouraged to attend with their adolescent children.

Featured speakers and panelists will include Raymond Morrogh, Commonwealth’s Attorney for Fairfax County; William Hauda, M.D., emergency physician, Inova Fairfax Hospital; Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer and Captain Bruce Ferguson, Commander, Youth Services Division; Jeff Levy, father of a student who died following drinking at a college party; and Ryan Smith, a Virginia Tech graduate student. A question and answer session will follow.

The program, launched in 2010, is part of an ongoing effort by county leaders to address the significant health and legal risks associated with underage and binge drinking. Additional forums will be held in the spring and summer.

The UPC is dedicated to promoting prevention of and early intervention into violence and drug use in the community. This program is partially funded by federal Drug Free Communities grant SP014409.

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Note: The program will be held in the school auditorium, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean. In the event of snow, the forum will be rescheduled for Jan. 18. For more information, contact Lucy Caldwell, Fairfax County Police Department, at 703-246-3271, or visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org.

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