

## **Motocross will drain emergency services**

I am concerned about the impact that the proposed motor cross track will have on emergency services in King William County.

Having worked in emergency services for almost 37 years, 32 of those years were as a volunteer here in King William. As all of you know, fire and rescue services in this county are provided by a handful of dedicated volunteers who struggle with the demands of providing service to a quickly growing population.

Emergency services in several counties in the area where I have worked have experienced difficulty providing coverage due to increased call demand, increased training hours, and a shrinking number of volunteers. This is a problem that is statewide. You will find the situation to be the same in King William. Volunteers have to work to provide for their families and then come home to spend time away from their families to provide emergency services for the county.

Providing coverage for motor cross events is not as simple as some have suggested. The attitude seems to be is to just let the volunteers sign up for each event and the duty crew will cover the other calls. Some folks don't seem to realize that there is a shortage of volunteers and sometimes there is no duty crew. Often response time is delayed or the call is referred to another agency.

Even if the motor cross developers hire paid emergency services and put in a helicopter pad as stated in their plan, there is still the likelihood that local agencies will be called upon to provide additional coverage.

Anytime you have an event of this magnitude there is always the probability at times of having multiple incidents at once which will require the assistance of the local rescue squads and fire departments. Also, medical helicopters only respond for the most serious accidents and injuries. The routine every day injury and illness calls are transported by ground ambulance.

Also, a large brush fire on a property of this size would require the response of all available fire department resources and manpower in the county and would most likely require a mutual aid response from surrounding counties.

I strongly urge the Planning Commission and this Board to consider the impact this will have on your local emergency response agencies and the citizens of this county. When the application for the proposed motor cross track is submitted to you, I urge that you deny approval of the proposal.

Ricky Rice