

STAFFORD STAR

Volume 10, issue 42015
October—December



Building the Foundation of Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships



Within this letter you will find some information that is very timely. Several safety tips are included that deal with Halloween and some suggestions that deal with the upcoming holiday season and how to keep the holidays safe and enjoyable are also provided. I think that you will see that these suggestions are important to follow.

On another note....this will be my last letter to you as the Sheriff of Stafford County. As many of you are aware I am retiring effective January 1, 2016.....that is in just 3 months! Most importantly, I want all of you to know what an honor and privilege it has been to be able to work in partnership with you these last 16 years as Sheriff. I am always impressed with the very

real interest that you have at wanting to keep your neighborhoods safe and your willingness to get involved and play a key role in that partnership. Law enforcement, working in collaboration with the community, is vital to ensuring and maintaining a place where citizens want to live, work and play. Thank you for all you have done in the past and I know that you will continue your very important involvement in your neighborhood in the future.

Sheriff
Charles E. Jett

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

FORD T. HUMPHREY BUILDING

STAFFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

Non Emergency Number 540-658-4400

EMERGENCY DIAL 911

1225 Courthouse Road
Stafford VA 22554



www.staffordsheriff.com

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National Night Out.....

Written by Patricia Copeland, Aquia Fire and Rescue Chief

Let me go back to the beginning....about 17 years ago, Aquia Harbour Volunteer Rescue Squad decided to participate in National Night Out by holding a picnic outside of the squad building. We had a Deputy vehicle, ambulances, and us and about 30 residents who stopped by for hot dogs.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



About 5 years later, after hula parties and McGruff birthday parties, 1st Sergeant English said the Sheriff would like us to hold our National Night Out at Target, because they were a sponsor and wanted to do a NNO event at their store. Once again it was the Rescue squad, Target's Lost Prevention Officer, a Deputy and about 50 of our closest friends coming by for hotdogs!

Now 12 years later we had an event with over 7,000 of our closest friends. National Night Out 2015 was extremely special for us. Our Sheriff, Charlie Jett is retiring in December. It has been an honor and a privilege to coordinate this event for him. He objectifies everything that National Night Out stands for, honor, integrity and professionalism. **As a County we may be many Communities, but on National Night Out—we are one Community coming together to be the best that we can be!** I believe that this year, so many residents showed up, not only to participate in NNO— but to honor our Sheriff, Charlie Jett, for his last NNO Event.



This year we had 150 different business exhibitors-59 of which were new participants to National Night Out. As usual our exhibitors could not sell anything for profit-which they readily agreed to. For us it was an opportunity to get to know the businesses and for the people who live in Stafford County, to get to know them.



**Stafford County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit
welcomes**

**Somerset/Seasons Landing to our Neighborhood watch
community.**

BACK TO SCHOOL.....

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

North Stafford High School

Phone (540)658-6150

SRO Deputy John Miller

Email: jmiller@staffordcountyva.gov

Stafford High School

Phone (540)371-7200

SRO Deputy Brandon Gates

Email: bgates@staffordcountyva.gov

Colonial Forge High School

Phone (540)658-6115

SRO Deputy Raymond Gill

Email: rgill@staffordcountyva.gov

Brooke Point High School

Phone (540)658-6080

SRO Deputy CA Kitchens

Email: ckitchens@staffordcountyva.gov

Mountain View High School

Phone (540)658-6840

SRO Deputy AM Siegel

Email: asiegel@staffordcountyva.gov

MIDDLE SCHOOLS

A.G. Wright Middle School

Phone (540)658-6240

SRO Deputy Frank Shannon

Email: fshannon@staffordcountyva.gov

Dixon Smith Middle School

Phone (540)899-0860

SRO Deputy Jeremiah Rakoczy

Email: jrakoczy@staffordcountyva.gov

Drew Middle School

Phone (540)371-1415

SRO Deputy James Early

Email: jeary@staffordcountyva.gov

Rodney Thompson Middle School

Phone (540)658-6420

SRO Sergeant Carol Burgess

Email: cburgess@staffordcountyva.gov

H.H. Poole Middle School

Phone (540)658-6190

SRO Deputy Jason Hierwarter

Email: jhierwarter@staffordcountyva.gov

Shirley Heim Middle School

Phone (540)658-5910

SRO Deputy Steven Epple

Email: sepple@staffordcountyva.gov

Stafford Middle School

Phone (540)658-6210

SRO Deputy Larry Neal

Email: lneal@staffordcountyva.gov

T. Benton Gayle Middle School

Phone (540)373-0380

SRO Deputy Ronald Richmond

Email: rrichmond@staffordcountyva.gov

Crime Prevention Month and Halloween

October is Crime Prevention Month and also the month in which Halloween is celebrated. Learn how to celebrate both together.

Although children look forward to tricks, treats, and ghoulish garb, Halloween can be fraught with fright for parents, with candy given to their kids by strangers and a legion of masked and costumed trick-or-treaters at the door. However, following a few safety tips can ensure safe fun for kids and candy-givers alike.

The activities below focus on Halloween, which is celebrated in the last week of October. The efforts throughout the month generate enthusiasm for crime prevention so it can grow stronger and become more widespread.

To ensure that trick-or-treaters, you, and your house stay safe, remember the following tips.

- Clear your yard and sidewalk of any obstacles or decorations that may be hard to see in the dark, lest someone go bump in the night.
- Keep your house well lighted, both inside and out; you wouldn't want to miss any particularly good costumes, would you?
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch or local citizen's group to haunt (patrol) your community.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police or sheriff's department.

To make sure even the scariest costumes are safe, keep the following in mind when buying or designing one.

- Try makeup instead of masks; it's more comfortable and doesn't obstruct vision the way masks can.
- Check to ensure that costumes are flame-retardant so that young ones are safe around jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and other flames.
- Keep costumes short to ensure that the only trip taken is the one around the neighborhood.
- Look for brightly colored costumes, attach reflector strips to costumes and bags, and remind trick-or-treaters to carry glow sticks and flashlights.
- If a costume involves any sort of fake weapon, make sure that it is made of a flexible material such as cardboard or foam. Or, avoid the whole problem of weapons by challenging your child to design a costume that is scary without one.

Keep in mind the next few tips to make sure your trick-or-treater's night in the neighborhood will be safe and fun.

- Older kids should trick-or-treat in groups; kids walking around alone are never as safe as those in groups, and especially not at night. Younger kids should be accompanied by a parent or trusted neighbor.
- Review the route for trick-or-treating beforehand and set a time set when kids should be home. Also, have a plan if your child gets separated from his or her friends or from you.

- Remind your children not to enter strange houses or cars.

After a successful and safe night around the neighborhood, remember that the treats still need scrutiny before anyone eats them. Remind your children not to eat treats until they've come home. To help ensure this, feed them a meal or a substantial snack before they go out.

- Check all treats at home in a well-lit place. Be especially wary of anything that is not wrapped by the factory or that is no longer sealed.
- Remind kids not to eat everything at once, lest they be green even without the makeup.

For even more tips, see our [Playing it Safe on Halloween: Pointers for Parents \(PDF\)](#) reproducible brochure.

To help kids get ready for trick or treating, we have several resources.

Be sure they read [McGruff's Halloween advice on McGruff.org](#).

Have them help McGruff [carve a virtual jack-o'-lantern at McGruff.org](#) and print a Halloween safety poster when they're done.

Remember to give out [McGruff's Halloween Safety Tips and Maze \(PDF\)](#) and [McGruff's Halloween Safety Quiz and Coloring Page \(PDF\)](#) for a frighteningly fun (and safe) night.






KIDS SPOT

Winter Cryptogram

Decode the words by finding each substitute letter!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Q			W									P							Z	Y					O



B Z Z
 Q H S O O R B M
 B T S
 Q D D Y Z
 T
 E D R Y
 E D H M
 E E M B E
 M W E W P Q W B
 E
 V S B W L H R E W
 E E Z E
 V B W W O W
 T
 U R Y
 E S
 S E S E H W Z
 M T T E S
 P S Y Y W A Z

Child Safety Info

More information about child safety can be found on our website

www.staffordsheriff.com/content/childsafety/

and

www.staffordsheriff.com/content/safkids/

Visit McGruff online at:

www.McGruff.org

Upcoming events

Scam Buster's (Business Watch) Every 2nd Tuesday of month	Stafford County Public Safety Building	Nov. 10, 2015	2:00pm
Veterans Day Thanksgiving Holiday	County Offices Closed	November 11, 2015	
	County Offices Closed	November 25 @ Noon	
		November 26 & 27, 2015	
Christmas Holiday News Years Day	County Offices Closed	December 25, 2015	
		January 1, 2016	



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

With the holidays rapidly approaching, our thoughts turn to buying, giving and receiving gifts, visiting friends and family, and sharing delightful culinary experiences. However, there are others whose thoughts are occupied with unattended electronic/appliance-filled houses or apartments, distracted shoppers with extra cash in a purse or wallet, or the next “con job” in the name of Christmas charity.

Statistics show that crime usually increases during and after the holiday season and the reason is very simple. More people with more cash, gifts, gift cards, etc. are “out and about” which presents more opportunities for the criminal looking for an easy “score.” Of course, the happy shopper is rushing around, stressed out, absent-mindedly looking for last-minute gifts, and trying to get everything done in preparation for the holidays and holiday festivities. The happy shopper is not thinking about the person in the store or parking lot that has followed you and knows exactly where you keep your cash, what gift you may have just purchased, or where you parked your car. Even though the routine and structure of work, school, appointments, and meetings have altered somewhat, now is especially the time to be mindful of personal safety, online safety, and to practice crime prevention measures.

Here are just a few general tips to keep yourself and your property safe during and after the holiday season. Also be sure to download these brochures that provide additional safety tips for shopping online, protecting your portable electronics, and using an ATM.

If you are traveling:

Put an automatic timer on your lights

Ask a neighbor to check up on your home

Don't forget to have your mail and newspaper delivery stopped

Sign up for email and text alert systems at your campus/local police departments to stay in touch if you may be away during the holidays

If you are out of the house:

Turn on lights and music or the TV so it looks as if someone is home

Be sure that your doors and windows are locked

Don't display your gifts where they can be seen from the outside

If you plan to have packages delivered to your home, make sure you are home to accept them. If not, as a neighbor or ask that the package be sent to the nearest post office

If you are shopping at a mall or a store:

Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you

Park in a well-lighted space

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible

Call to cancel missing and stolen credit and debit cards immediately

Make sure to complete warranty and/or product registration forms and mail them out as soon as possible since they may provide some kind of protection or replacement value if your property is stolen.

Don't overburden yourself with packages

Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Carry a purse close to your body in the front. If you are carrying a wallet, place it in an inside coat or front pants pocket

If shopping with kids, have a plan in case you get separated. For the older children, have a central meeting spot designated. For the younger children teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated. Be sure they know your name (not just mommy and daddy), cell phone number, and their address. Go over the dangers of strangers with them so they know who not to talk to or follow

Check receipts to see whether your full credit card number appears. If a receipt has your full number on it, take a pen and thoroughly scratch it out

Double check that you have your credit cards and check book after you pay for your items

If a crime is committed, make sure to report it immediately. It is crucial to remember that even though the holidays are filled lots of love and goodwill towards men, there are those who will look for opportunities to strike easy targets. The point of crime prevention is to make that as difficult for criminals as possible. Do not give a thief any chances this year. Practice safe crime prevention measures not only during and after the holidays, make them a habit for life. Happy Holidays!

Stop Theft from Vehicles
TAKE IT, HIDE IT,
LOCK IT, OR LOSE IT



You Need A Personal Safety Plan for Black Friday

Arlington, VA –The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), home of McGruff the Crime Dog, says you need a personal safety and security plan to keep criminals at bay and you from seeing red.

This year many shoppers will be out early to find those big bargains on Black Friday or online for Cyber Monday, but the criminals will be out too. NCPC has great tips to help you shop safely while getting those great holiday bargains throughout the shopping season.

1. Do not buy more than you can carry. Plan ahead by taking a friend with you or ask a store employee to help you carry your packages to the car.
2. Shop online with companies you know and trust. Check a company's background if you are not familiar with it. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it usually is.
3. Save all receipts. Print and save all confirmations from your online purchases. Start a file folder to keep all receipts together and to help you verify credit card or bank statements as they come in.
4. Consider alternate options to pay for your merchandise, such as onetime or multiuse disposable credit cards or money orders, at online stores and auction sites.
5. Wait until asked before taking out your credit card or checkbook. An enterprising thief would love to shoulder surf to get your account information.
6. Deter pickpockets. Carry your purse close to your body or your wallet inside a coat or front trouser pocket.
7. Have your keys in hand when approaching your vehicle. Check the back seat and around the car before getting in.
8. Do not leave packages visible in your car windows. Lock them in the trunk or, if possible, take them directly home.
9. Tell a security guard or store employee if you see an unattended bag or package. The same applies if you are using mass transit.



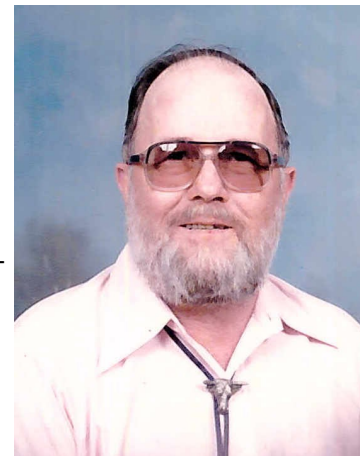
In Memoriam

ROBERT WESLEY KNIGHT



Born on 10/10/1934 -Departed on 07/16/2015

Robert Wesley Knight, 80, of Stafford passed away Thursday, July 16, 2015 at Mary Washington Hospital.



A lifelong resident of Stafford, he was born to Addison B. and Ada Mae Griffis on October 10, 1934. Robert was one of the first member of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office Citizens Police Academy and a long time member of Stafford Crime Solvers.



Business Corner



SCAM BUSTERS WORKS!

You either work for a business or visit a business almost every day. It is important to be aware of the various crime trends that are occurring in and around Stafford County!

At the **Scam Busters** meetings, area businesses share and learn what the crime trends are in the area. There can be pictures, videos, descriptions, and specific incidents shared!

Criminal cases have been solved because of the information shared at this meeting!

- Tuesday, October 13 2015** 2-3 PM Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)
- Tuesday, November 10 2015** 2-3 PM Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)
- Tuesday, December 8, 2015** 2-3 PM Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)

Come to a Scam Busters meeting to learn ...

For more information, contact Deputy Jim Hamilton 540-658-4112 or jhamilton@co.stafford.va.us

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

1225 Courthouse Road
Stafford VA 22554
Non Emergency Number 540-658-4400
EMERGENCY DIAL 911

www.staffordsheriff.com



Mission Statement

We, the men and women of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with our community, are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by maintaining order, protecting life and property, and reducing the fear of crime.

We will ensure the peace and safety of all citizens by upholding the Constitution of the United States and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As leaders of the community, we will embrace our core beliefs: Integrity, Compassion, Fairness, and Professionalism.

As a team we are, "Committed to Excellence" through:

Integrity

We will earn and maintain the trust of our citizens by being personally and professionally accountable to the highest ethical and moral standards.

We will conduct ourselves above reproach, mindful of justice, with the courage to uphold these convictions.

Compassion

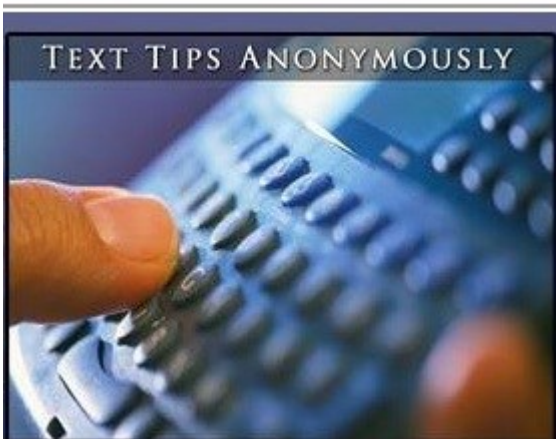
We will treat everyone with dignity, respect and understanding. We will be responsive to the community and each other by being caring, sensitive and conscientious.

Fairness

We will maintain a standard of what is right and proper, free from self-interest, prejudice or favoritism. We will be consistent, objective and just in all our actions.

Professionalism

We will provide quality service through motivated, dedicated and well-trained employees. Our actions, attitudes and appearance will demonstrate self-discipline, attention to duty and service to our community.



Text "Stafford (plus your tip)" to "Crimes" (274637)

[Submit a Tip Online](#)



Crime Doesn't Pay - Crime Solvers Does!

659-2020