

STAFFORD STAR

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2007

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Message from Sheriff Jett

It is hard to believe March is already here; the next time I say "I can't believe it's already..." it will be June, with only half a year left to enjoy!

There are many things that will be changing this year and in the next few years, but one you may have noticed is our newsletter.

We would like your feedback on the changes that are being made. It will have a direct impact on the direction of this newsletter! Please contact our Crime Prevention Unit with any comments or suggestions about the **Stafford Star**.

Your feedback will help the newsletter grow, but one thing we know is that the weather does not take recommendations. There are several items I would recommend you keep in your vehicle to be prepared for various incidents. If you are like some members of my team, you may keep anything and everything in the trunk of your car, which is not always a bad thing.

Things I would recommend you have in your vehicle throughout the year:

- Flashlight
- Matches
- Road Flares
- First Aid Kit
- Roadside Assistance Kit
- Jumper Cables
- Spare tire and jack and all components
- Blanket
- Small Shovel
- Food
- Water
- Local/National Help Phone numbers (towing, insurance, etc.)

Vehicle reminders:

- Keep at least ½ tank of gas in vehicle at all times
- Keep up with maintenance
- Change car battery as needed
- Get an oil change every 3 months or as often as needed
- Check tire pressure every 2 weeks



Weather can be very unpredictable, however we can be almost sure of an early spring because Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow this winter. With spring comes rain, roads are most slippery when it starts to rain and mixes with the oils on the roads. Please be careful on the roads at all times of the year and Happy Spring!

Sincerely,
Sheriff C. E. Jett

Building the Foundation of Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships

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This Month's Events:

- Scam Busters (Business Watch)
1st Tuesday of the month at 2PM
- Crime Solvers
1st Wednesday of the month at 7PM
- Cadets
1st Thursday of the month at 7PM
- Girl Scout Week (12-18)
- National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week (18-24)
- National Red Cross Month

**Current Threat
Level As of
February 8, 2007
is YELLOW—
Significant Threat
of Terrorism. Go
to www.dhs.gov for
daily updates.**

**SUGGESTIONS?
Call or email us!**

Ask Crime Prevention

NEW!! The Crime Prevention office would like to answer questions you may have about various law enforcement subjects (such as terminology, D.A.R.E. Program, upcoming events, etc.) If you have any questions, call us at 540-658-4030, fax us at 540-658-4039, or email us at crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us.

911 CALL/VISIT vs. REPORT

911 Call: When a call is placed to 911, the callers address automatically displays on the dispatcher's screen. This information is stored and logged using an automatic system and a deputy is then dispatched to the location.

Incident Report: Where a deputy makes contact with the reporting party, a report is not needed (depending on the situation, or request for no report to be filed). However, there is record of the visit with notes from the reporting deputy.

Report Call: Where a deputy makes contact with the victim/reporting party and information is obtained and a report is filed.

Crime Reports/Bulletins from the Sheriff's Office are created using **REPORT CALLS** for the specified time period. If no report is filed, it is not reflected in the Crime Report/Bulletin.

ALWAYS REQUEST A REPORT BE TAKEN!



Visit McGruff online at:

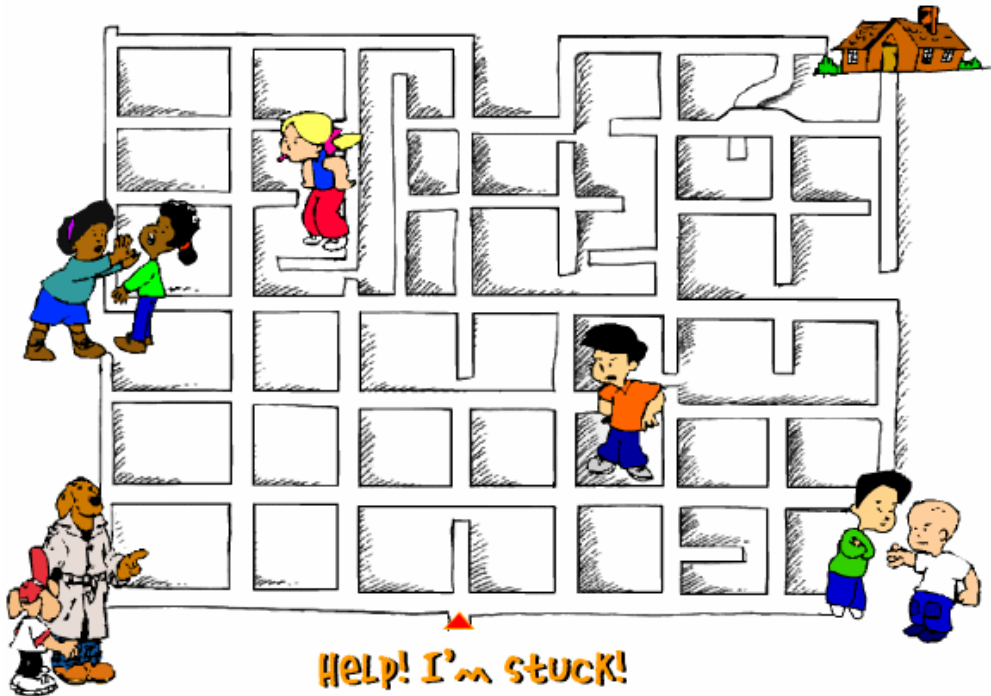
www.McGruff.org

When riding the school bus, remember these **TIPS!!**

- Listen to your bus driver
- Never bend down near or under the bus
- Take 5 GIANT steps away from the bus when you get off
- Do not throw things on the bus or out of the windows!



School Bus Safety



Help Scruff get home after he gets off of the bus!

Stafford Highlights

CONGRATULATIONS!!

DARE Graduating Classes of January 2007

Stafford High School Girl's Basketball — **DISTRICT CHAMPIONS**



Senior Section



TRIAD (Stafford's Affiliation S.A.L.T. Senior and Law Enforcement Together) strives to reduce the criminal victimization of our older or retired citizens, and to improve their quality of life.

INTERESTED in being a part of the TRIAD/S.A.L.T. team? Please let us know!!

Call us **540-658-4112** or email us crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us

Neighborhood News

The Crime Prevention Unit would like your input on this section.

This section depends greatly on your feedback, and what you would like to see!

If you want pictures, we can do pictures!

Examples:

- Shout-Out
- Yard Sales
- Girl/Boy Scouts
- Meetings
- Neighborhood news

Whatever it may be, let us know! We want the Stafford Star to grow, and to have as much community interaction as possible.

Any suggestions, let Andrea know!!

540-658-4030

abingler@co.stafford.va.us

Would you like
for your
neighborhood to
be in the
newsletter?



LET US KNOW!

Business Corner

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 happening in and around the area!

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

VERY BENEFICIAL!

Current Crime Trends

• Counterfeit Money

Scammers fade the actual bill amount and print a higher amount on the bill. **TO DETECT:** Hold the bill to a light—check the dollar amount stated on the strip, and the watermark picture should match the president picture on the bill.

• Organized Shoplifting

Scammers fill a shopping cart with various items and say they left their credit card/cash in their vehicle. The transaction is then suspended until customer returns, at which time the cart is pushed to a waiting vehicle. **TO DETECT:** If someone wants to suspend a transaction, keep the merchandise at the checkout counter.

1st Tuesday of each Month
TIME: **2PM**
PLACE: **Rowswor Building**
(1739 Jefferson Davis Hwy)

• Gift Card Rip-offs

Scammers look at un-bought gift cards in stores, and record the information on the card. They then call the Gift Card number to check balance, and if there's a balance, they quickly use the card. **TO DETECT: Customers:** Try to use the cards as quickly as possible. **Businesses:** Remove card from display that appears to have been tampered with.

TRUE OR FALSE?? Check on www.snopes.com

INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • FAIRNESS • PROFESSIONALISM

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**Suggestions? Comments?
LET ANDREA KNOW!!**

MISSION STATEMENT

We, the men and women of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the 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 of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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

Visit us on the internet!
www.staffordsheriff.com

The Crime Prevention Team (to name a few of many)



From left to right: Sheriff C. E. Jett, Deputy Jim Hamilton, McGruff the Crime Dog, Andrea Bingler, Sergeant Darrell English, and Randy Shockey.

Sheriff C. E. Jett believes greatly in the Crime Prevention Department, as it is a wonderful contact with both residential and business communities!

Deputy Jim Hamilton has been a part of law enforcement for over 32 years and has been greatly involved in the Scam Busters (Business Watch) programs and Project Lifesaver.

McGruff the Crime Dog visits many different activities and programs in the Stafford Area! If you want to have McGruff visit you, let us know!!

Andrea Bingler is new to the Crime Prevention team and is very excited to learn more about Stafford County, and the many different programs the Stafford Sheriff's Office offers the community.

Sergeant Darrell English has been a part of the Stafford Sheriff's Office for over 26 years and is a great resource for all residential communities!

Randy Shockey is Chairman of the Stafford Crime Solvers and has been involved in the program for over 13 years.