

STAFFORD STAR

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2008

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Message from Sheriff Jett

This may be March, but the weather certainly doesn't allow us to get used to winter or spring.

However in early February, though still winter, I can tell you the weather in Virginia Beach was great, a mild 55 degrees with a little wind. The water on the other hand, was a little chilly (44 degrees to be exact).

My two sons and I got in the Atlantic Ocean the first weekend in February. We may have been crazy, but so were over 3500 other people! We were Polar Plunging for Special Olympics donations.

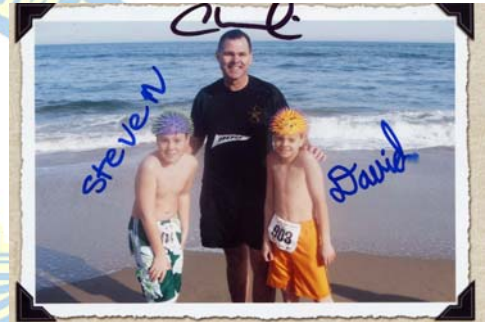
This truly is a great cause. I was part of the Area 11 team of Special Athletes. Area 11 consists of special athletes from Stafford, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania, King George, and Caroline counties. With your help, the Area 11 Team raised a little over \$20,000! A very significant portion of this amount goes back to support Area 11! This is more

than double what the team raised in 2007. This great achievement would not have been possible without the help, cooperation, and commitment of Stafford and surrounding counties residents who donated to the program.

As a whole, Special Olympics raised more than \$855,000 this year!

My family and I have plunged now for the last few years and though we know it's crazy, it's worth it!

I hope that you all have a chance to commit to something that you believe in and have the desire to make a difference. In this month's newsletter on page 5, we have a fundraiser for St. Baldrick's and are sponsoring two very special people. We ask for your support whether it be donations, volunteering your time, or even spreading the word. You could even prepare a team for next year!



There are many organizations that need our help and it's very hard to choose between the many different efforts. But whatever the organization or cause you decide to support, your efforts will not go unnoticed. Every little bit helps and the athletes of Area 11 can attest to that.

I want to thank you again for the continued support no matter the cause, time of the year, or how crazy the event may be. I wish you all the best during the turn into 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
- Stafford SHRED - IT
Saturday, March 8 / 8:00AM - 12:00PM
Stafford Administration Building Parking Lot
- March 9 - Daylight Savings Time!
- National Inhalants and Poisons Awareness Week (16-23)
- National Red Cross Month

Disabled Parking



The Stafford County Sheriff's Office encourages citizens to call if they notice that a non-disabled individual's car is parked in a space reserved for persons with disabilities. These parking spots are specifically marked and are to be used only by those who have a disabled parking permit displayed in their car or the appropriately marked license plate. Parking a vehicle in a space reserved for persons with disabilities is a violation of state law. It is punishable by a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$500.00. If people call the Stafford County Sheriff's Office about a vehicle that is illegally parked in a spot reserved for persons with disabilities, we will respond! The Stafford County Sheriff's Office encourages all citizens to obey this very important law.

National Night Out 2008 MEETING

National Night Out is a nationwide event where communities and law enforcement together are outside, mingling, and promoting safe communities.

In 2007, out of 11,310 communities that participated in National Night Out, Stafford County was one of the 2007 National Award winners for the event held at Stafford Mar-

**WEDNESDAY
APRIL 16, 2008
7:00PM**

**Public Safety Center
Stafford Sheriff's Office
1225 Courthouse Road**

ketplace. Congratulations to all those who participated!

This year, we are striving for **1ST PLACE** and we need your help!

If you're participating in NNO this year, please send a representative to our meeting. We will be discussing ideas on making NNO bigger and better than previous years! If you have questions, please contact Sgt. Darrell English of Crime Prevention 540-658-4428 or denglish@co.stafford.va.us



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Business Corner

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

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 Stafford County!

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! Cases have been made because of the information shared!

VERY BENEFICIAL!

Current Crime Trends

- **Traveling Criminals**

Many scammers are traveling from store to store using fraudulent traveler's checks, stolen credit cards and gift cards. Stores particularly along the I-95 corridor are being targeted. **TO DETER:** To help prevent these scammers from using these stolen/fraudulent payment methods, check their ID with the credit card to make sure it matches. **COMMUNICATE** with other stores along I-95!

- **False Returns**

Scammers are bringing in legitimate purchase receipts. They will bring in an empty store bag, select merchandise off of the shelf that matches an item on the receipt, and attempt to return the item for cash or gift card. **TO DETECT:** Be wary of frequent shoppers returning items. Loss Prevention can monitor activity of customers as they enter the store. Do not return items without a receipt.



2ND Tuesday of each Month

TIME: 2PM

**PLACE: Public Safety Center
Stafford Sheriff's Office
1225 Courthouse Road**

- **Quick Change Artists**

Scammers will look for a cashier that appears new and less-experienced and will make a small purchase with a large denomination bill. When the cashier gives the customer change, the suspect will quickly ask for change, claim the cashier did not give the correct change, and can be very aggressive. **TO DETER:** Have cashiers trained to stay calm in stressful situations. If suspicious of a customer, close the cash drawer and ask for a manager.

Senior Section

Top 10 Senior Scams of 2007



10. Home Improvement Scams

Be suspicious of contractors who seek you out. Do not pay large sums of money in advance and never make a final payment until all work is completed to your satisfaction.

9. Internet Fraud

Do not provide your credit card number unless the site is secure and reputable. Look for indicators that the site is secure, e.g., a "lock" icon on the browser's status bar, or a URL that begins with "https:" (the "s" stands for "secure").

8. Email Scams - Phishing

Be extremely skeptical of emails received from someone you don't know. Never respond to any request for personal information that comes to you via email.

7. Computer Sales Scams

Majority were customers of Virginia-based company called Financing Alternatives. Consumers were led to believe that the computers be shipped after three months of payments and that they would have to continue making payments for nine months after the computer was shipped. Consumers often did not receive the computers within the time period promised by Financing Alternatives, and some consumers did not receive the computers after making all such payments.

6. Sweepstakes Fraud

Do not pay to collect sweepstakes winnings. Phone numbers can deceive. New technology can make incoming calls look as if they are coming from Washington, DC, or your own community.

5. Foreign Lottery Scams

If you play a foreign lottery — through the mail or over the telephone — you're violating federal law. There are no secret systems for winning foreign lotteries.

4. Telemarketing Scams

Don't be pressured to make an immediate decision. Don't give your credit card, checking account or Social Security number to unknown callers.

3. Fraudulent Phone Calls

Take control of the calls you receive. If you want to reduce the number of telemarketing calls you receive, place your telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. To register online, visit www.donotcall.gov. To register by phone, call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236) from the phone number you wish to register.

2. Debt Collection Scams

Call stating you owe money. Caller using threats and intimidation so consumer pays. Impossible to determine whether the person calling is employed by a debt collection firm and looking for more commission or a scam artist posing as a debt collector.

1. Identity Theft

Reduce the number of credit and debit cards you carry in your wallet. Take social security number off of checks and other documents if possible. Mail bills at post office or in blue postal boxes – DO NOT place bills in your own personal mailbox. Shred, Shred, Shred, Shred, Shred.

Want to be involved in TRIAD?

Contact Randy Shockey at 540-658-4706 or randyshockey@yahoo.com

TRIAD meets the **second Thursday of each month** and has speakers and presentations for Senior Citizens about various topics such as scams, personal safety, and many other topics!

The next meeting is Thursday, March 13, 2008, 2PM at the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Sub Station in the Spotsylvania Towne Centre Mall



This information was provided by the Office of the Attorney General. If you would like to add your email address to the Office of the Attorney General mailing list, or, if you would like to submit an item of interest to share with law enforcement, senior citizen service providers and seniors, write to the Office of the Attorney General today at: seniors@oag.state.va.us.



The Smart Driving School Inc.

- Safety
- Maneuverability
- Awareness
- Responsibility
- Thinking

Questions every teenage driver should be able to answer:

- Can you safely recover a car if you get 2 wheels off the road?
- Can you safely recover a car that has gone into a skid?
- Is braking always the best way to avoid an accident?
- Do you know how your car will react to sudden steering inputs?
- Do you know what oversteer and understeer are?

The **S.M.A.R.T. School** is a non-profit hands on defensive driving school started for the express purpose of making safe teenage drivers in Fredericksburg and surrounding counties. Qualified instructors will teach defensive driving skills in a safe closed environment.

For more information about the S.M.A.R.T. Driving School Inc. you may visit their website www.smartdrivingschool.org/ or write P.O. Box 567/Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404. The phone number is 540-371-6700 and fax number is 540-373-7943.

Help us raise money for Kids' Cancer!



Shaving the Way to Conquer Kids' Cancer

The Stafford County Sheriff's Office needs your help to raise a goal of **\$2000**. We are sponsoring two local Stafford County children, 7 year old Jensen Goulette and 6 year old Tomas Nichols, who have both been diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

The mission of the St. Baldrick's Foundation is to raise awareness and funds to cure kids' cancer by supporting cancer research and fellowships. For more information about St. Baldrick's visit their website www.StBaldricks.org

SHAVEES

- Captain O'Leary
- Captain Carey
- Lieutenant Kelley
- Lieutenant McAlister
- 1st Sergeant Pangretic
- Sergeant Grella
- Deputy Beltran
- Deputy Bice
- Deputy Chinault
- Deputy Conklin
- Deputy Shannon
- Deputy Staples
- Deputy Sturdivant
- Deputy Walker
- Deputy Westveer

You can help make a difference!

- Mail donations to Stafford Sheriff's Office/P.O. Box 189/Stafford, VA 22555
- Drop off donations at the Sheriff's Office (1225 Courthouse Road)
- Secure online donation www.stbaldricks.org/participants/team_info.html?TeamKey=2008-2939

Donations will be accepted up to the date of the SHAVE! March 16, 2008!

Questions?

Sabrina McAlister (540) 295-5229



stafford
shred it

Drive-thru style!!!

Shred It With Ease

Come Join the Stafford County Crime Solvers
Saturday, March 8 • 8 a.m.–Noon
 Stafford County Administration Center Parking Lot
 1300 Courthouse Road • Stafford, VA 22555

\$5

per box

100 lbs. of shredding material per person



All Proceeds go to Stafford County Crime Solvers
 Sponsored by: Security On/Offsite Shredding (SOS)
www.SOSshredding.com
 Contact Sergeant Darrell English with questions 540/658-4428

INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • FAIRNESS • PROFESSIONALISM

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Crime Prevention Office
1225 Courthouse Road
P.O. Box 189
Stafford, VA 22555

Sheriff C. E. Jett

Phone: 540-658-4450
Email: crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us



**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.



REMINDER

Sunday, **March 9** is **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS**
Remember to move your clocks **forward** an hour! This is also a good time to change the battery in your smoke detector!

NEW LOOK FOR THE WEBSITE!

We have recently updated our website and have a new look! We always encourage input from others. If you have any suggestions or questions, please send an email to crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us or call 540-658-4030.

The site includes all Crime Reports, News Releases, Crime Alerts, contact information, reference information, and other educational materials.

There is also an online form that you can fill out and detail a commendation or complaint regarding the Stafford Sheriff's Office!

Check out the Stafford Sheriff's Office Recruitment video! You can learn what our office is and the mission each of us strive to achieve each day.



Visit us on the internet!
www.staffordsheriff.com