

# STAFFORD STAR

Volume 6, Issue 1

March 2010

## STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

### Message from Sheriff Jett

Mother Nature has put Stafford County to the test this winter and it's hard to believe it's not quite over. It was a tough time to sustain a routine during the winter storms, traveling was even more difficult and dangerous. Thank you all for being more cautious on the roadways if you were traveling.

The sun has been seen in Stafford, hopefully its stays around a while to help clear up the once beautiful white snow. Another quick thank you to our Sheriff's Office Deputies, though weather conditions created quite the challenge for emergency response, Deputies maintained their level of response and duties.

If you can remember back to last year, specifically the first Tuesday of August, Stafford County had many different events to encompass one

nationwide crime prevention effort, National Night Out. The sun was shining bright that day; the temperature was moderate for a summer evening. I and many of our deputies visited many of the neighborhoods that participated in NNO and it was amazing. Not only did we think it was the best, but Stafford County was nationally recognized for all efforts and ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the Category 2 division. This wouldn't have been possible without each subdivision, community members, Stafford Market Place, Target, Caryn Souza, Patricia Copeland and the Aquia Harbour Volunteer Rescue Squad. See inside this issue for details and on our website!

This month's newsletter has



many important safety tips and articles to help educate others about scams and ways to help avoid becoming a victim. Please pass this information along to your neighbors, coworkers, family and friends. Accurate/Valid information sharing is essential in crimes prevention.

Thank you for all you do as a citizen of Stafford to help make our community the best.

Sheriff C.E. Jett

### Building the Foundation of Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships

#### Inside this issue:

Ask Crime Prevention—To lock or not lock?	2
Kids Spot - Always Wear Your Seatbelt	2
National Night Out - Award Winner!	3
What is the Census?	3
Crime Solvers Community Yard Sale	4
Business Corner	4
Snopes.com	5
Community Spotlight: Frank McCarty	5
Stafford Shredding Event	8

#### Upcoming Events

- **Crime Solvers Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 7 (7PM at PSC)
- **Spotsylvania/Stafford TRIAD Meeting**  
2nd Thursday of the Month  
Thursday, March 11  
Spotsylvania Mall
- **Scam Buster's (Business Watch)**  
2nd Tuesday of each month  
Tuesday, March 9 (2PM at PSC)  
Tuesday, April 13 (2PM at PSC)
- **Special Olympics Basketball Championship**  
Saturday, March 20 / Colonial Forge High School
- **Stafford Shredding Event**  
Saturday, April 17 (9am - 1pm)  
BB&T on Rt. 17 / Rain or Shine
- **Stafford Community Yard Sale**  
Saturday, May 15  
8 am - 1 pm / Stafford Administration Center

**Current Threat  
Level as of  
March 1, 2010 is  
Elevated or  
YELLOW  
Significant Threat  
of Terrorism**

**Go to  
[www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov)  
for more  
information.**



Visit McGruff online at:

[www.McGruff.org](http://www.McGruff.org)

### Child Safety Info

More information about  
child safety can be  
found on our website

[www.staffordsheriff.com/  
content/childsafety/](http://www.staffordsheriff.com/content/childsafety/)

and

[www.staffordsheriff.com/  
content/safkids/](http://www.staffordsheriff.com/content/safkids/)

### Paint Colors

- 1 - Light Brown
- 2 - Flesh
- 3 - Green
- 4 - Brown
- 5 - Dark Blue
- 6 - Red
- 7 - white
- 8 - Purple

## Ask Crime Prevention

The Crime Prevention Unit 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 [crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us).

## To LOCK or NOT LOCK?

This may be a difficult question for some to answer. There are so many factors that come into play when deciding whether to use a lock.

First off, do you know where the lock is? Do you know where the key is? Is the lock too hard to press or push? Do you mind others having easy access to your belongings? Does it take too much time to lock up? Does it take too much time to unlock after you've locked it? Do you know which way to turn the lock? Will you remember where you put the key? Do you know the combination? Will you be able to remember the combination to unlock it?

## Lock Up to Lock Out Crime

What should I lock? Your home. Your vehicle. Your windows. Your gym locker. Your garage. Your bike lock. Your shed. Anything that needs to be secured.

If something HAS a lock, USE IT! It doesn't count when the vehicle is locked yet the windows are down. Same goes for your home (if your door is locked, but your windows aren't), still doesn't count!



## ALWAYS USE YOUR SEATBELT!

Child Safety Seat  
Inspections are available  
on Thursdays at 10 am.

BY APPOINTMENT

Call Deputy Cain  
**540-658-4960**  
to schedule



## National Night Out 2009—AWARD WINNER!

### Category 2 100,000 - 299,000 Population

1. St. Paul, MN
2. Rochester/Olmsted County, MN
3. Orlando, FL
4. Modesto, CA
5. Plano, TX
6. Ontario, CA
7. Greensboro, NC
8. Richmond, VA
9. Durham, NC
10. Midland, TX
11. Orange, CA
12. Topeka, KS
13. Charles County, MD
14. Hollywood, FL
15. Stafford County, VA
16. Waco, TX
17. Henrico County, VA
18. West Valley City, UT
19. Inglewood, CA
20. Baton Rouge, LA
21. Frisco, TX
22. Columbia, SC
23. Richmond, CA
24. Murfreesboro, TN
25. Evansville, IN
26. Brockton, MA
27. Corpus Christi, TX
28. Portsmouth, VA

National Night Out of 2009 involved 36.7 million people in 14625 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.

Where did Stafford County rank this past year in Category 2 (100,000-299,000 population)? **15th!**

This is a GREAT job by all of Stafford County in their combined efforts to make the National Night Out a huge success. In 2008, Stafford placed 18th, and in 2007 placed 24th.

Each year Stafford County shows great improvement building upon previous years' success; can you imagine what it is store for 2010!?

**This year's National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 3, 2010**



## What is the Census?

The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years.

I don't want someone coming to my door asking questions.

A census questionnaire will be mailed to you in March. If you fill out the form and mail it back, no census taker will need to come to your residence. The Census Bureau would rather get your form back in the mail, and you can help your country save money by sending it back.

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back.

Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for cause, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

### KEY DATES:

**March 2010** Census forms are mailed or delivered to households

**April 1, 2010** National Census Day. Use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail.

**April-July 2010** Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail.

If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home. There are 10 questions on the questionnaire including information about every person living at each address like name, age, gender and race. Do not give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U.S. Census. The Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the U.S. Census. The Better Business bureau (BBB) advises people "to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft."

## Stafford Community Yard Sale

Saturday, May 15, 2010

8 am - 1 pm

Stafford Administration Building  
(1300 Courthouse Road)



**FIRST COME  
FIRST SERVED**

**SPACES SELL  
OUT QUICKLY**

**GET PAYMENT  
IN SOON TO  
SECURE SPOT**

The Stafford Crime Solvers will be hosting the Annual Spring Community Yard Sale on Saturday, May 15, 2010 from 8 am until 1 pm at the Stafford County Administration Center parking lot.

Yard Sale space is available and can be purchased for \$20 per yard sale spot (includes two parking spaces). Available spots are first come first serve. Payment must be received in order to secure your spot.

For more information, contact Lisa Taylor (540-295-9003) or visit the Stafford Sheriff's Office website [www.staffordsheriff.com/content/solvers](http://www.staffordsheriff.com/content/solvers)

## Spread the Word to End the Word

You've seen it on the news. Everyone is talking about misusing the word "retard" as an insult. On March 3, you're invited to help spread the word to end hurtful misuse of the "R" word. Hear what Special Olympics Virginia athlete and Global Messenger, Frank Stephens, has to say about the issue during his recent interview on CNN.

**PLEDGE  
TO SHOW  
RESPECT  
TO EVERYONE**

3 ways you can TAKE ACTION before March 3!

- Sign the "R" word pledge
- Get to know someone like Frank Stephens
- Get involved—start by Volunteering to Cheer at the Special Olympics Basketball Championships March 19-20.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHAMPIONSHIPS • MARCH 20 • Colonial Forge High School**  
[www.volunteer2cheer.com](http://www.volunteer2cheer.com)

## 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, March 9**

2-3 PM

Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)

**Tuesday, April 13**

2-3 PM

Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)

Come to a Scam Busters meeting to learn ...  
what is happening, what could happen, and how to help prevent loss for you company!



For more information, contact Deputy Jim Hamilton 540-658-4112 or [jhamilton@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:jhamilton@co.stafford.va.us)



**Please verify emails are valid before forwarding them.**

- Claim: Maps and other escape aids were smuggles to Allied POWs in Monopoly sets during Word War II. **TRUE**
- Claim: Every time a particular text message is forwarded, AT&T will donate 45¢ towards the medical care of an unnamed 14-year-old boy shot by his step-father while defending his 2-year-old sister from rape. **FALSE**
- Claim: Facebook or FarmVille soon plans to charge monthly subscription fees to users. **FALSE**
- Claim: Jack Benny arranged to have a single red rose sent to his wife every day after he was gone. **TRUE**

**SCAMS**

- FALSE** Nigerian Scam: A wealthy foreigner who needs help moving millions of dollars from his homeland promises a hefty percentage of this fortune as a reward for assisting him.
- FALSE** Foreign Lottery: Announcements inform recipients that they've won large sums of money in foreign lotteries.
- FALSE** Secret Shopper Scam: Advertisers seek applicants for paid positions as 'secret' or 'mystery' shopper.
- FALSE** Work-at-Home Scam: Advertisers offer kits that enable home workers to make money posting links on the Internet.
- FALSE** Family Member in Distress Scam: Scammers impersonate distressed family members in desperate need of money.

**ALL OF THESE ARTICLES AND MANY MORE CAN BE FOUND ONLINE.**

WWW.SNOPES.COM

## Community Spotlight - Frank McCarty



*Photograph provided by Free Lance-Star*

### FRANK MCCARTY

Mr. Frank McCarty is a Stafford resident and the owner of White Oak Equipment. Not only is Mr. McCarty a successful businessman, but a major contributor and host of the Annual White Oak Equipment Oyster Roast.

The Annual Oyster Roast began 26 years ago as a small event to help one of his sales staff who needed help paying for cancer treatments. The event has expanded and become a huge annual event that has the potential to raise thousands of dollars for someone in need.

Mr. McCarty and his company, along with other generous sponsors, cover all costs of the oyster roast so that all the proceeds go straight to the year's chosen beneficiary. There is no set fee

for attending the Oyster Roast, attendees are asked to make a donation of any size.

The Stafford Sheriff's Office would like to extend our gratitude and appreciation for the generosity of Mr. Frank McCarty. Sources say Mr. McCarty has now raised over half a million dollars in the total years of the White Oak Equipment Oyster Roast.

Thank you Mr. McCarty for your continued support and commitment to your community.

**INTEGRITY • COMPASSION • FAIRNESS • PROFESSIONALISM**

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**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.

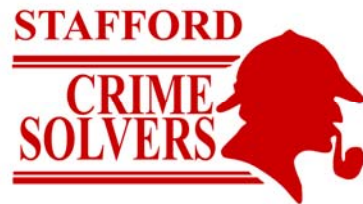
We will ensure the peace and safety of all citizens by upholding the Constitution of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As leaders of the community,  
we will embrace our core beliefs:

***Integrity, Compassion, Fairness, and Professionalism***

**Crime Doesn't Pay - Crime Solvers Does!**

**659-2020**



Sponsored by:

**BB&T** and benefiting **Stafford Crime Solvers**

**Stafford Shredding**

Drive-thru  
style!!!

**Saturday, April 17**

**8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

BB&T Bank (760 Warrenton Rd., Fredericksburg)



Per  
box

100lbs. of shredding  
material per person



Shredding provided by: **SOS Shredding** ([www.SOSshredding.com](http://www.SOSshredding.com))  
Contact **1st Sergeant Darrell English** with questions **540/658-4428**