

STAFFORD STAR

Volume 10, issue 2 2015
April-June



Building the Foundation of Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships



Sheriff Charles E. Jett

We have included in this newsletter some information that is helpful to all age groups. You will find some tips for our teen drivers, especially with prom season upon us, as well as parents of teens. We have also provided some tips that will help our seniors (and others!) avoid some of the SCAMS that are being experienced in the Stafford County region.

The Sheriff's Office recently held a promotion ceremony honoring 11 newly promoted individuals. A picture of these special people has been included in this newsletter. I am sure a number of you will recognize some of the faces as they are your neighbors or friends.

Spring is upon us with summer not too far away. Enjoy the warmer weather and the variety of activities that your neighborhood will be having over the next few months. As always.... I thank you for your interest in your neighborhood and your willingness to get involved. It really does make a difference.

Sheriff Charles Jett



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EMERGENCY DIAL 911

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www.staffordsheriff.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



[Message From Sheriff Jett.....Cover](#)



[Business Watch....6](#)



[Prom Safety.....1](#)



[Stafford Wanted6](#)



[Teen Driving2-3](#)



[Kickin Bass.....7](#)



[Events.....4](#)



[Law Enforcement Torch Run.....7](#)



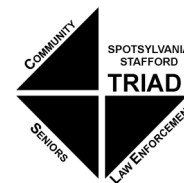
[Kids Spot.....4](#)



[Senior Section.....8](#)



[Promotion Ceremony.....5](#)



[Reducing Crime Against the Elderly 9](#)

PROM SAFETY

As prom season is fast approaching, the Stafford County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Services Unit is partnering with Stafford County Public Schools to promote Youth of Virginia Speak Out (YOVASO). YOVASO is a youth leadership organization focused on saving the lives of teenage drivers. We do this by educating, encouraging, and empowering teenagers to be traffic safety advocates in both their schools and communities. Listed below are a few prom safety tips that will ensure that your child has both a safe and enjoyable evening:

Prom Safety Tips

The Talk -- Tell your children that you want them to have a wonderful, memorable prom. Keep that wish as a central focus. They need to give you their complete itinerary for the evening, including whom they will be with, where they'll be going after the prom and the phone numbers where you can contact them. "We'll just be driving around" is not an acceptable response. Come to a fair decision on a curfew, based upon your children's past level of responsibility in this area. Express your concerns about their health and safety and explain to them why prom night makes it more difficult to make safe and smart decisions. Don't be vague -- discuss drinking, drugging, driving under the influence. Ask them how they plan to keep safe and avoid actions they will regret. Reinforce your belief in their character and in their ability to act responsibly.

The Ride -- If they're not driving themselves, you must know who'll be driving them. Regardless of how many times you have talked about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs, emphasize that these dangers are particularly high on prom night. Your children cannot drink or take drugs and drive. They also must be driven by someone who has not drunk alcohol or taken drugs. You need their promise on these rules. These rules are non-negotiable.

The Connection -- If your children are not returning home right after the prom, you need to be able to contact them at all times until they return home. You also need to be reachable at all times as well. There can be no doubt where your kids will be and with whom throughout the evening and morning. If they're going to other kids' houses after the prom, check ahead of time with these children's parents. You also have a right and a responsibility to ask if these parents are going to allow drinking in their homes. Many parents believe that as long as they "take keys" in a situation like this that underage drinking is permissible in their houses. You must answer the question, "Do I want my kids at after-prom parties where parents aren't present?" Post-prom, parent-child check-in calls make sense. Establish a couple of mandatory call-in times with your kids. You might consider giving cell phones to your kids for the evening, thereby establishing a guaranteed connection.

The Offer -- Give your children the unconditional option of calling you at any time for help or advice. That includes picking them up at any time of day or night, with a promise not to shame or humiliate them in front of others. Assure them that you always welcome being part of their making smart and safe decisions. This unconditional offer of help and advice should be an outstanding offer throughout their lives.

**PARTNERS FOR SAFE
TEEN DRIVING**
A COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

PARENTS HOLD THE KEYS

The number one reason for teen crashes is driver inexperience – not drinking and driving, speeding, or filling a car with friends . . . although those choices can also be deadly. While parents can set rules and enforce laws that prohibit risky behavior, parents must also realize that they are the ones who must give their teenager the time to practice driving skills and become a mature, safe and courteous driver.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:

“All young drivers start out with very little knowledge or understanding of the complexities of driving a motor vehicle. Technical ability, good judgment and experience all are needed to properly make the many continuous decisions, small and large, that add up to safe driving. By making it so easy to get a driver license . . . without requiring an extended period of supervised practice-driving time, we are setting them up for the risk of making a fatal mistake.”

A recent study by the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm noted the following:

“Laws and policies that address distractions by limiting the number of peer passengers and prohibiting cell phone use among novice drivers will help reduce crash rates, but will only address part of the problem. Many crashes will still occur due to the inability of teen drivers to detect and respond to a hazard in time.”

The study noted that parents should focus on helping their teens learn to scan the roadway for hazards during driving practice sessions. Parental reinforcement of basic driving skills and good decision making will lead to safe driving habits that will last a lifetime.

Each year, approximately 100 high school students are killed and thousands more are injured on Virginia’s roadways. Hospitalization and rehabilitation costs, lost time from school, and other costs associated with long-term injuries create substantial emotional, physical and financial problems for students, their families and communities.

Parents and families – not the school – are in the best position to encourage responsible behavior and have a sustained effect on minimizing risks faced by inexperienced drivers.

PARENTS: BE A GOOD EXAMPLE!

- Always wear your safety belt
- Correct your own unsafe driving habits
- Know Virginia traffic laws
- Obey speed limits
- Don’t talk on your cell phone
- Don’t use other electronic devices
- Don’t multitask while driving
- Don’t eat or drink behind the wheel
- Set your GPS before beginning your trip

KNOW TEEN DRIVING LAWS . . . FOR TEEN DRIVERS UNDER 18

- Require seatbelt use
- No driving after midnight*
- Only one passenger allowed*
- No texting and driving
- No talking on the cell phone*
- Prohibit alcohol and drug use and riding with others under the influence (Anyone younger than 21 with a blood-alcohol concentration of .02% percent or higher will lose his/her license for a year)

*Some exceptions – know the law!

TIPS FOR COACHING YOUR TEEN DRIVER

- Follow the Virginia Department of Education's required 45-Hour Teen/Parent Driving Guide
- Establish a contract allowing your teen to earn the privilege to drive
- Focus on the driving task and leave family issues at home
- Mark your calendar for practice times and remain consistent
- Stay calm, rational, upbeat and engaged
- Reinforce new driving techniques
- Ensure that your teen makes safety and instrument adjustments before driving
- Offer coaching comments that are positive and not judgmental
- Don't use practice time to discipline your teen driver about other matters
- Make sure your teen has his/her learner's permit, vehicle registration card and insurance information

ADOLESCENT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

Scientists now know that the decision-making portion of the teenager's brain is not mature and the impulse control portion of the brain does not physically mature until about age 25.

As a result, teenagers often fail to realize that fast driving, texting while driving, drinking, drag racing and having too many passengers are dangerous activities. Teenagers need active parental supervision, especially where driving is concerned!

In addition, teens often don't recognize themselves as inexperienced drivers. A study by the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia found that 60% of teens believe inexperience heavily influences safety, but only 15% consider their peers to be inexperienced. "This contradiction is quite dangerous, considering this sample of teens is almost exclusively comprised of inexperienced, novice drivers," the study stated. Further, many teens believe that getting a license automatically makes them experienced.

Six reasons teenagers have automobile crashes or are seriously injured:

- 1. Driver inexperience**
 - Practice with your teen driver.
 - Have your teen learn to drive in all situations: on the highway, at night, and in different weather conditions.
- 2. Use of electronic devices - cell phones, GPS, IPODs, DVD players, etc.**
 - Turn off cell phones while driving. In emergency situations, pull to the side of the road to seek help.
 - Don't text while driving – IT'S THE LAW!
- 3. Driver distractions**
 - Give the road your full attention.
 - Don't let distractions get in the way of safe driving.
- 4. Excessive speed**
 - Drive the posted speed limit.
 - Plan your time so that you aren't speeding to get somewhere.
 - Realize there are consequences of driving too fast for hazardous road conditions.
 - Maintain proper following distance and time. Don't tailgate!
- 5. Not buckling up**
 - Use seatbelts every time you get in a car.
 - Remind all passengers to buckle up before you begin to drive.
- 6. Use of alcohol and illegal drugs**
 - Never drive when you have been drinking and never use illegal drugs!
 - Never drive if you have taken any prescription or over-the-counter medicines that can cause drowsiness!

RESOURCES

Partners for Safe Teen Driving is an educationally focused community health initiative designed to educate parents about what they can do to better prepare their teenagers for driving. Partners include:



Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles Applying for a Learner's
www.dmv.virginia.gov/webdoc/citizen/drivers/applying_learners.asp

45-Hour Parent/Teen Driving Guide
www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/driver_education/parent_teen_driving_guide.pdf

GET THE FACTS!

PARTNERS FOR SAFE TEEN DRIVING
 A COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE

www.SafeTeenDriving.org
 703.791.7328
 800.609.2680



Visit McGruff online at:

www.McGruff.org

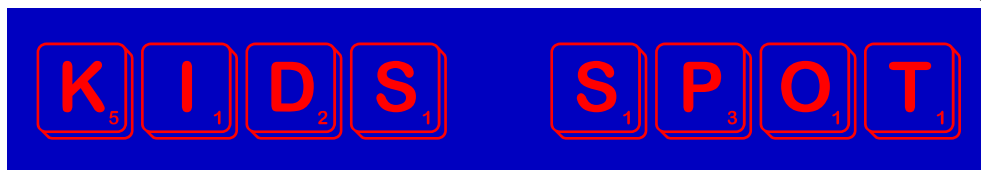
Child Safety Info

More information about child safety can be found on our website

www.staffordsheriff.com/content/childsafety/

and

www.staffordsheriff.com/content/safkids/



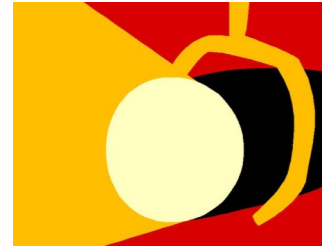
Help the ant reach the soil.



Upcoming events

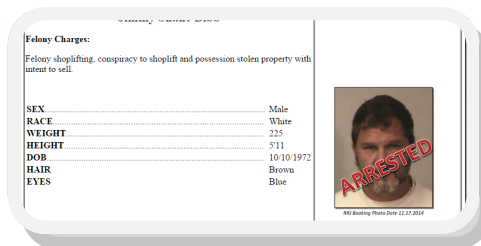
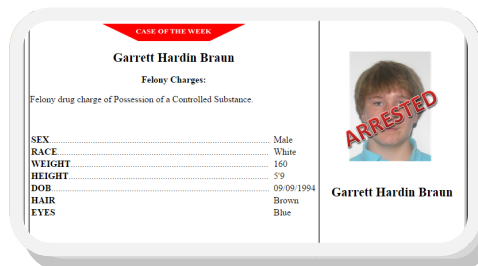
Scam Buster's (Business Watch) Every 2nd Tuesday of month	Stafford County Public Safety Building	April 14, 2015	2:00pm
		May 12, 2015	2:00pm
		June 9, 2015	2:00pm
Stafford County Schools Spring Break		April 6-10, 2015	
Last Day of School		June 12, 2015	
Holiday-Stafford County Offices Closed	Memorial Day	May 25, 2015	
Crime Solvers Shredding Event	Stafford County Public Safety Building	April 10, 2015 8AM to Noon	
Crime Solvers Yard Sale	Stafford County Court-house Parking Lot	May 9, 2015	

CONGRATULATIONS



The Stafford County Sheriff's Office recently held a Promotion Ceremony honoring 11 newly promoted individuals. Pictured from left to right are Sheriff Charles Jett, Detective Sergeant Chadwick Oxley, Detective Sergeant Chris Cameron, Captain Shawn Kimmitz, Lieutenant Benjamin Worcester, Major David Decatur, 1st Sergeant Lance Barley, Sergeant Shawn Efimenco, Sergeant Michelle Gibbons, 2nd Lieutenant Lee Peters, III, 1st Sergeant Deuntay Diggs, Sergeant Dimas Pinzon, III and Sergeant Daren Volpe, Jr.





The Stafford County Sheriff's Office has started something new on the Sheriff's Office web-site, www.staffordsheriff.com. On the left hand menu, citizens will now find a menu selection called Most Wanted. This new feature lists a person wanted by the Sheriff's Office along with a physical description, a brief write-up of what the individual is wanted for and what to do if a citizen has information about the location of the wanted person. Thus far five of the six individuals on the Most Wanted list have been arrested and the Sheriff's Office is looking forward to keeping that impressive arrest record going. Go to www.staffordsheriff.com and check it out! Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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, April 14 2015** 2-3 PM Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)
- Tuesday, May 12, 2015** 2-3 PM Stafford Public Safety Center (1225 Courthouse Rd.)
- Tuesday, June 9, 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

WICKIN' BASS

May 15, 2015
LEESYLVANIA STATE PARK

Proceeds Benefit

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA

START TIME: 7AM TO 3PM
CHECK IN AT 6AM

100% PAYOUT

REGISTER BY CONTACTING THE PWC SHERIFF'S OFFICE AT (703)792-5817 OR AT THE RAMP

FEES: \$50.00 PER PERSON/
\$10.00 BIG FISH
(TOTAL \$100 OR \$120 PER BOAT)

MAX 100 BOATS
\$10.00 PER PERSON BIGGEST SNAKEHEAD
100% PAYOUT

2015

LAW ENFORCEMENT
TORCH RUN[®]
FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS
VIRGINIA

TEES & HATS

CUSTOMIZATION OF THE LEFT CHEST ALSO AVAILABLE!

2015 TORCH RUN SHIRTS & HATS ARE ON SALE NOW!
ITEMS ARE \$15 EACH, OR TWO OF ANY COMBINATION FOR \$25.
ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT SPECIAL OLYMPICS VIRGINIA.

TO PURCHASE YOUR TORCH RUN GEAR, CONTACT:

CRIMEPREVENTION
CRIMEPREVENTION@STAFFORDCOUNTYVA.GOV

SENIOR SECTION

1. **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.
2. **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”).
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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.
9. **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.
10. **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!

SPOTLIGHT

Virginia TRIAD: Reducing Crime Against the Elderly

What is TRIAD?

TRIAD is a partnership of law enforcement, senior organizations, and senior citizens working together to educate and support older community members. The first TRIAD chapter began in 1988, when the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) determined that effectively addressing crime-related needs among the elderly subpopulation required cooperative efforts. Virginia's first TRIAD chapter was started in 1995; today there are 55 TRIADs across the Commonwealth, covering 230 Virginia counties, cities, and towns.

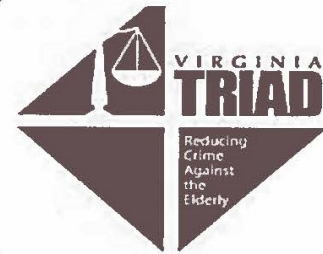
A primary goal of all TRIAD chapters is keeping older adults safe in their communities through effective crime prevention, strengthened elder-law enforcement communication, and community education. TRIAD helps foster understanding by overcoming stereotypes of the elderly and assists older citizens in connecting with others in their community.

The Virginia State TRIAD Office and Virginia S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) Council host an annual training conference on issues for seniors and community safety. Local programming varies by TRIAD chapter; however, basic

offerings may include regular community meetings, legal assistance, adopt-a-senior programs, and consumer fraud information. Specialized services include Senior Citizen Police Academies,

where law enforcement officers teach older adults how to prevent crimes against themselves and others; Project Lifesaver, a tracking bracelet for older adults with cognitive impairments that helps law enforcement locate a lost senior; and File of Life, a summary of information on medications, allergies, and emergency contacts for emergency responders to consult if needed. Most local programs are offered to the public free of cost.

Funding for TRIAD operations varies by location. Most support for TRIAD efforts comes in the form of donations and in-kind support, unless funding is obtained for a specific effort, such as performing an evaluation of the community or local efforts.



Information on Virginia's TRIAD efforts—including chapter contacts and activities and how to start a TRIAD—can be found through the state TRIAD office, online at <http://www.oag.state.va.us/Programs%20and%20Resources/TRIAD/index.html>.

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

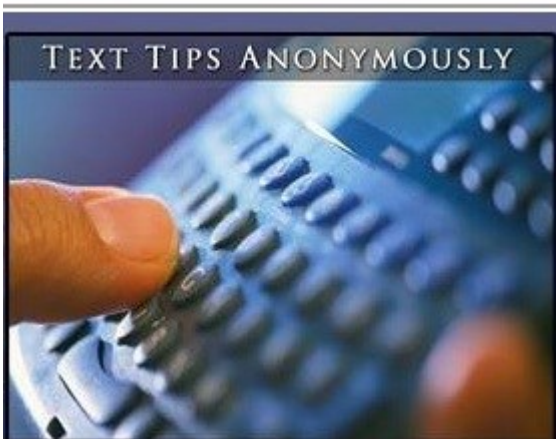
We will treat everyone with dignity, respect and understanding. We will be responsive to the community and each other by being caring, sensitive and conscientious.

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