



NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2018



Sheriff Robert Mosier
78 W Lee St. #200
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 422-8600



NEW SHERIFFS' SCHOOL

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- New Sheriffs' School.....2
- Scholarship Applications
Now Available2
- Equifax Scam.....2
- VSA Calls for Adequate
Compensation.....3
- President's Public Health
Emergency Declaration.....3
- Stay Safe from Carbon
Monoxide Poisoning.....3
- Message from Sheriff
Robert Mosier.....4



2017-2018

President

Sheriff Michael S. "Mike" Mondul
City of Danville

Immediate Past President

Sheriff C.O. Balderson
Westmoreland County

Vice President

Sheriff Barry E. Letterman
Appomattox County

Secretary

Sheriff James E. Brown, III
City of Charlottesville

Treasurer

Sheriff Mark A. Amos
Orange County

Board Members

Sheriff Karl S. Leonard
Chesterfield County

Sheriff Mark A. Marshall
Isle of Wight County

Sheriff Les R. Taylor
City of Winchester

Executive Director
John W. Jones

NEW SHERIFFS' SCHOOL

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) welcomed seven new sheriffs to the Commonwealth starting on January 1, 2018! These seven individuals (who make up 6% of Virginia's elected sheriffs), along with four other new sheriffs, recently completed training at the VSI New Sheriffs' School, held November 28-30 in Richmond.

Thanks to support from our members in Fauquier County and all across Virginia, we were able to hold a very comprehensive New Sheriffs' School which covered a vast array of information. The three-day training session included several information sessions on topics including: risk management, conflict

of interest, lawful employment, and training, accounting and record-keeping requirements.

Also, our new sheriffs had a great opportunity to become familiar with the VSI and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and get acquainted with experienced sheriffs who serve in positions of leadership for both organizations.

Overall, the New Sheriffs' School offered Virginia's new sheriffs an invaluable opportunity to improve their effectiveness as dedicated public safety officials — something from which every Virginian benefits.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE

One of the many benefits the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute offers is our scholarship program. This award — which is funded exclusively by generous VSI supporters like you — is granted to full-time or part-time students majoring in Criminal Justice and attending a Virginia state college or university. In fact, with the help of loyal members like you, we awarded 79 scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year to Virginia's youth.

Scholarship applications will be available on our website by January 31, 2018. In addition to the application, students must submit SAT/ACT scores, transcripts, a copy of the student's voter registration card if the student is 18 and an essay. A full list of application materials can be found at <https://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>. Applications are due May 1, 2018.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE EQUIFAX SCAM

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is warning consumers about a scam that has developed since the Equifax data breach. The scammer will call asking to verify your account information, but Equifax will never call you out of the blue.

Here are some tips to prevent falling victim to a phone scam:

- **Don't give personal information.** Don't provide any personal or financial information unless you've initiated the call and it's to a phone number you know is correct.
- **Don't trust caller ID.** Scammers can spoof their numbers so it looks like they are calling from a particular company, even when they're not.
- **If you get a robocall, hang up.** Don't press 1 to speak to a live operator or any other key to take your number off the list. If you respond by pressing any number, it will probably just lead to more robocalls.

If you've already received a call that you think is fake, report it to the FTC by visiting www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov.

STAFF COMPENSATION TOP PRIORITY OF VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

The Virginia Sheriffs' Association continues to work to address the salary disparity that exists in sheriffs' offices across the Commonwealth. These officers put their lives on the line for their community.

This low salary has resulted in high turnover — 18% — of first year deputy sheriffs across Virginia. Last year, the General Assembly approved a 2% raise for all state employees that went into effect on August 1, 2017. A new legislative study suggests that the Virginia government should consider making compensation for state employees an annual budget priority, instead of leaving this important issue up to political chance. The study went onto say that this approach would lead to better retention and recruiting of quality candidates.

Sheriffs' offices are the primary law enforcement office in 86 counties in Virginia, making over 61,000 part A and part B arrests annually and answering more than 1,860,000 calls for service. Sheriffs are absorbing additional responsibilities each year, including the overwhelming responsibility of mental health transports and addressing the mental health crisis in local jails.

In addition, sheriffs serve more than 3 million civil process papers to keep the court system moving and provide security to keep Virginia's courts, judges and users of the judicial system safe. Sheriffs also serve as the keepers of all local jails and many serve as policy makers on regional jail boards and authorities.

Given these enormous and growing responsibilities, VSA is urging elected officials to adequately compensate deputy sheriffs in Fauquier County and across Virginia.

PRESIDENT DECLARES OPIOID CRISIS A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

Opioids now kill more Americans under 50 than guns or car accidents. In response, President Trump declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency, but pledged no new money to combat growing opioid abuse. Instead the declaration will allow the government to redirect funds to ensure greater access to medical services in rural areas.



The overwhelming majority of heroin users started with prescription pain medication. As a result, there is growing pressure on the medical community to move away from prescribing opioids to treat pain.

In 2016, former Governor Terry McAuliffe declared the epidemic a public health emergency. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “overdoses from prescription opioids are a driving factor in the 15-year increase in opioid overdose deaths. The amount of prescription opioids sold to pharmacies, hospitals, and doctors' offices nearly quadrupled from 1999 to 2010.”

Fatal heroin overdoses in our state have tripled since 2011. What's worse, the number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths jumped from 225 deaths in 2015 to 622 deaths in 2016. Fentanyl is stronger than morphine and heroin, highly addictive, and a small dose can be fatal.

An ongoing priority for Fauquier County law enforcement and Virginia legislators is tackling the growing opioid epidemic in our state that is destroying too many families.



CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING ALERT

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 400 Americans die from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning each year.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless and colorless gas that often goes undetected. During winter months, the risk of CO poisoning increases, when heating systems are on and people with keyless ignition systems start their cars in enclosed spaces.

CO is found in fumes produced any time you burn fuel in vehicles, stoves, lanterns, grills, fireplaces, gas ranges or furnaces. People and animals can die from CO fumes when they build up indoors. Here are a few tips to prevent CO poisoning:

- Have your heating system, water heater, and any other gas, oil, wood or coal-burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.
- Install an Underwriters Laboratory approved CO monitor on each level of your home. Check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall.

(continued on page 4)

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF ROBERT MOSIER



On behalf of all of us at the Fauquier County Sheriff's office, I hope you and your family had a happy and safe holiday season, and that you are enjoying your new year thus far.

With the prospect of wintry conditions for the next several months, I urge you to take extra care and caution when traveling on

Virginia's roadways. Another danger you should be aware of, especially during winter months, is the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning. I've included some tips on how you can safeguard your home from this "silent killer."

As always, it is my privilege and honor to serve the great Commonwealth of Virginia. The men and women of the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office are committed to keeping residents and visitors safe during this winter season. At the same time, we remain focused on improving the working conditions and compensation of our hardworking deputy sheriffs, and enhancing the Criminal Justice system to deal with the ever-increasing challenges faced by law enforcement, the courts, and correctional system.

On behalf of everyone here at the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, we greatly appreciate the partnership of citizens like you in making sure our Commonwealth is a great place to live, work, and learn.

I look forward to working together with you in the new year to help Virginia be all it can be.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert T. Mosier".

Sheriff Robert Mosier
78 W Lee St. #200
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 422-8600

CARBON MONOXIDE *(continued)*

- Inspect homes after heavy snow fall and make sure snow is removed from around exhaust stacks, vents, and fresh-air intakes.
- If your CO monitor alarms continuously, evacuate your home and call 911 or your local gas company. If the alarm is only intermittent, change the batteries.
- Seek prompt medical attention if you suspect CO poisoning and feel dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated. Immediately call the poison control center at 1-800-222-1222.
- Do not use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline- or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window. Generators should be located at least 20 feet from an occupied structure.
- Do not run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- Do not burn anything in a stove or fireplace that is not vented.
- Do not heat your house with a gas oven.

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Twitter

<https://twitter.com/VSInstitute>



Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/vasheriffsinstitute>

We Want to Hear from You ...



901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301
Richmond, Virginia 23219



(804) 225-7152 phone



(804) 225-7162 fax



vsavsi@virginiasheriffs.org

The VSI solicits articles and comments from associate members of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles and comments should be directed to: John W. Jones, Executive Director, Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or phone (804) 225-7152.