



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2018



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NEW PUBLIC SAFETY LAWS PASSED IN THE VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



2018-2019

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VSA's Online Store Open!



We have re-launched the VSA online store with a greater selection of options! By shopping at the VSA Online Store, you will be taking your support of your local sheriff's office to the next level.

To purchase official merchandise, visit the official VSA Online Store: <https://vsa.duplimall.com/>.

Thank you for your support.

NEW PUBLIC SAFETY LAWS TAKE EFFECT

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute monitors all legislation that impacts the office of the sheriff. VSI would like to touch on a few key pieces of legislation regarding public safety:

- **Select Committee on School Safety** – The House of Delegates has created a select committee to review state and local policies on school safety to help better protect Virginia students. This is the first select committee created in the House in more than 150 years. The committee is tasked to make recommendations for the General Assembly to review during the 2019 legislative session to strengthen emergency preparedness and safety measures in Virginia schools. The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is proud to be involved in helping the committee improve safety in our schools.
- **Weekend Jail Time** – This program has been available to individuals who have been convicted of a misdemeanor, traffic offense or offenses that fall under Chapter 5 (§ 20-61 et seq.) of Title 20. The General Assembly has expanded



the weekend jail to now include those convicted of a felony that is not an act of violence. This only applies to those with the active portion of their sentence remaining to be served in 45 days or less and gainfully employed.

- **Grand Larceny Threshold** – Virginia had been tied for the lowest felony larceny threshold in the U.S. at \$200, and this limit has not been changed since 1980. Starting July 1st, the threshold is increasing to \$500 with the goal of adjusting for inflation. Those who steal under the threshold will still face stiff fines and could face up to a year in jail; however, they will not be labeled as felons.

INAUGURAL CLASS OF THE VSI CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

In April, VSI presented participants of the inaugural class of the VSI Certification Program a certificate of completion at the spring conference. The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute offers the Certification Program to recognize the continued individual professional development of Virginia sheriffs and deputies. Certification through this voluntary program provides recognition of a sheriff or deputy's commitment to excellence, life-long learning and advancement of public safety as a profession.

Sheriffs and deputies serving in Fauquier County and throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia carry immense responsibilities as the guardians of their communities, providing effective public safety services balanced with the fair and equitable treatment of every individual they encounter.



DEPUTY SHERIFF AND K-9 HONORED FOR THEIR SERVICE

German shepherd Dux and his handler Spotsylvania County Deputy Kory Kelley will be honored for their service and have their statues displayed at the National Law Enforcement Museum, now under construction in Washington, D.C. The Museum is set to open this fall.

On October 2, 2016, the K-9 police dog was shot twice while chasing a suspect in Spotsylvania County. The incident happened during a traffic stop after Deputy Kelley patted down the passenger and discovered a gun. The suspect punched the deputy and ran. During the pursuit, Dux was shot when he got within 10 feet of the fleeing suspect. The deputies were also shot at and returned fire, hitting the suspect, who was arrested two days later.

Dux underwent emergency surgery and was back on duty 52 days later.

NEW TWIST ON AN OLD SCAM

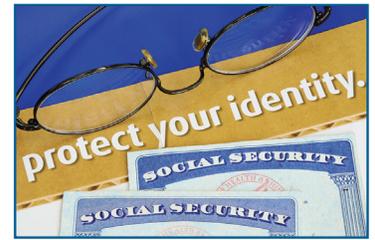
Fauquier County residents should be aware about a new scam that's been adapted to victimize unsuspecting citizens. According to the Attorney General's Consumer Alert, scammers will call pretending to be a utility company, a government agency, or even the IRS or law enforcement demanding payment via an iTunes gift card or another prepaid card to resolve some fabricated issue or debt.

Once those cards are transferred they are nearly impossible to recover. Sometimes the scammers will use technology to "spoof" the phone number, email address, or website of legitimate organizations to hide their own identity. Please be aware that even if you are told the caller is representing an official-sounding company, no legitimate company will demand payment via an iTunes card or a prepaid card.

A 2017 report found that Americans lost approximately \$16 billion to fraud and identity theft. Research indicates that the victims can be young or old, as more millennials lost money to scams than older Americans did.

HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT?

Identity theft is one of the fastest growing crimes in the U.S. Criminals will steal a person's confidential information such as a Social Security Number, birth date, or credit or bank account information to obtain false driver's licenses, credit cards, loans, and more. Approximately nine million Americans are victims of identity theft.



If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft, take the following action;

1. Notify your bank or credit union, credit card company, and one of the three credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian or Trans Union) to notify them that you are a victim of an identity crime.
2. Contact local law enforcement and file a criminal complaint.
3. If you fall victim to identity theft while using the Internet, you should file a report with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) by going to www.ic3.gov.
4. Request an Identity Theft Passport from the Virginia Office of the Attorney General.

Virginians who are victims of identity theft may obtain and submit Identity Theft Passport applications at any DMV customer service center. This provides victims with a document that, if needed, would substantiate the crime to creditors and law enforcement.

DISTRACTED DRIVING NOW AN "EPIDEMIC"

Virginia transportation officials are calling distracted driving an epidemic in Virginia. In fact, in 2017 there were 208 fatalities resulting from crashes in which distracted driving was determined to be a factor. The actual number of crashes that were a result of distracted driving is believed to be much higher.

In 2017, more than 15,000 injuries from 26,000+ crashes involved "self reported" distracted driving, according to the DMV. Using a cell phone is a common cause of distracted driving, even though texting is illegal and considered a primary offense. Other causes of distracted driving include rubbernecking, passengers, and adjusting a radio.

The Fauquier County Sheriff's Office is working to raise awareness about this growing problem and urging citizens to avoid the impulse of trying to multi-task or pick up their cell phones while driving.

Here are some tips to avoid distracted driving provided by the DMV:

- Adjust your seat, mirrors, radio, and GPS before you start to drive. Ask passengers to help you once you hit the road.
- Shut off your cell phone or place it out of reach. If you need

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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 are busy enjoying your summer in the Commonwealth of Virginia. While summertime brings lots of opportunity to explore our state's beaches and parks, and enjoy outdoor activities, it also brings some extra risks.

Whether you're working or playing outside in the summer, anybody not accustomed to the heat is at risk for a heat-related illness. Take steps to protect yourself: Wear appropriate clothing, including a wide-brimmed hat, take frequent water breaks, apply sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15 and never leave kids or pets unattended in a vehicle.

Summer is also a time when opportunist thieves seek out property left unattended and unsecured, such as bicycles, lawn items, garden tools, car keys, to name a few. So please, ensure your property is secured, especially overnight, and remember to close and lock your windows and doors. It just takes a second for a thief to steal something which has been left lying unattended, and by taking a few moments to ensure property is secure, this can significantly reduce the risk of falling victim to such as crime.

I want you to know it is my privilege to serve as your sheriff, and I urge you to contact my office if you have any questions about the subjects we discuss in this issue of the VSI newsletter or any other concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in our community.

I deeply appreciate your continued support!

Sincerely,

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

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

(Distracted Driving, continued)

to make a call or send a text, safely pull over and park your vehicle.

- Don't eat, apply makeup, or engage in other behaviors that take your focus off the road.
- Secure your pets. It is safer for them and for you.
- Make sure you get plenty of rest. If you're drowsy, you won't be able to concentrate.

2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

With the help of residents like you from Fauquier County, VSI secures the critical funding needed to continue providing desperately needed scholarships to Virginia citizens to pursue Criminal Justice degrees — a great source of pride for us all and a vital step in ensuring our safety. VSI is the only organization in Virginia helping the state's law enforcement students with Criminal Justice scholarships.



One of our most recent scholarship award recipients is Andrew M Cox, of Fauquier County, Virginia. Andrew is planning on attending George Mason University where he will be pursuing a course of study in Criminal Justice.

We're very pleased to announce that 71 promising Virginia students have benefited from your generous support this year — 69 full-time scholarships at \$1,000 and 2 part-time at \$500. That's \$70,000 going toward education costs for some great young people that will benefit everyone in our Commonwealth. It's all part of our effort to provide an opportunity for students across Virginia to pursue a career of service to community in law enforcement, to the benefit of all Virginia's citizens!

We Want to Hear from You ...

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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.