



NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION 2019



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VIRGINIA PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS RECEIVE TOP AWARDS

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2019-2020

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VALOR AWARD AND DEPUTY OF THE YEAR WINNERS ANNOUNCED

We are proud to announce that Charlotte County Deputy Sheriffs Dustin Brown and Charlie Brinkley were awarded the Virginia Sheriffs' Association Valor Award in recognition for their bravery and actions during Tropical Storm Michael.

On the evening of October 11, 2018, Deputies Brown and Brinkley received a call that three individuals had exited a vehicle that was stranded in a rapidly rising creek. Upon arriving on the scene, the deputies heard a young male yelling and found him clinging to a guard rail. Entering the raging water, Deputies Brown and Brinkley risked their lives to bring the young man to safety. After securing him on the shore, they learned that the two other passengers in the vehicle had been swept down the creek.

Loudoun County Deputy First Class Colin Whittington was named the 2019 Virginia Deputy Sheriff of the Year. This award recognizes outstanding performance, unwavering passion and commitment, and problem-solving to improve the quality of

life for citizens.

Deputy Whittington has been with the Loudoun County Sheriff's office for over three years and is a current member of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association. He exemplifies community policing through his outreach participation with civic and youth organizations, schools, HOAs, businesses, and education programs.

In an effort to deter disorderly conduct and alcohol offenses in a highly-frequented business establishment, Deputy Whittington initiated an alcohol enforcement operation which involved extensive collaboration with command staff, restaurants, management, legal counsel, and the Virginia ABC. This operation resulted in significant decreased arrests and has been well received by management and patrons.

These outstanding public safety officers were presented with their awards at the VSA Annual Conference on September 12, 2019 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

GET YOUR LAW ENFORCEMENT LICENSE PLATE

I want to remind our members that Virginia sheriffs proudly support the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) through a special Virginia license plate offered through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). The VSI "Heroes Live Forever" license plate provides funding to commemorate Virginia's fallen law enforcement heroes and support

the NLEOMF.



If you haven't purchased your license plate yet, it is still available through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. If you are already proudly displaying your plate on your vehicle, the Virginia Sheriffs wish to thank you for your support which continues to generate valuable resources to recognize Virginia's fallen law enforcement officers.

STOP BY VSA'S ONLINE STORE!

At VSA's online store you will find high-quality men's and women's apparel, items for hunting, and other items that are perfect for gifts.

vsa.thepromomall.com

PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER: GET YOUR FLU VACCINE



Protect yourself and protect the ones you love: Get a flu shot this fall. It's the best way to lessen your chances of getting the flu and spreading it to others. According to the Centers for Disease Control it is recommended that individuals get a flu vaccine in early fall, before the flu begins spreading through Fauquier County. Protection from the vaccine occurs within two weeks of the vaccination and lasts throughout the flu season. Of course you can get vaccinated through the fall, winter, and spring since flu season continues through May.

DON'T TAKE A FALL THIS FALL

The first week of fall is designated Fall Prevention Awareness Week. For older Americans falling is a major reason for making a visit to the emergency room. In fact, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, falls are the leading cause of fatal injury and trauma-related hospital visits among older adults.



Here are a few things you can do to prevent falls:

- Do exercises that improve your balance and make your legs stronger.
- Have your doctor or pharmacist review your medications and determine if any could cause dizziness or drowsiness.
- Have your eyes checked at least once a year and update your glasses.
- Get up slowly after you sit down or lie down.
- Wear shoes, avoiding slippers and bare feet, when inside or outside
- Ensure adequate lighting throughout your house.

“MOVE OVER” GETS UPGRADE

According to new research, 71 percent of drivers admitted to taking photos and texting while driving by emergency workers — demonstrating the growing problem of distracted drivers which are putting first responders at greater risk.

During the 2019, General Assembly Virginia’s “Move Over” law was strengthened. Virginia’s original “Move Over” law, which took effect in 2002, allows workers who are protecting and serving our community to do their jobs with a little more safety and security. The law requires motorists who are approaching an emergency vehicle that is displaying flashing, blinking or alternating blue, red or amber lights on a highway to proceed with caution. If possible, drivers should move into a lane not adjacent to the stationary vehicle. In an effort to ensure the safety of first responders, drivers now face a \$250 fine and a reckless driving charge if they fail to move over or slow down when they see the flashing lights of law enforcement cars, fire trucks, or tow trucks stopped on the side of the road.

I want to take this opportunity to thank citizens in Fauquier County and all across our state for abiding by this important law that helps keep our deputies and others in law enforcement safe on our highways.

SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM ALERT

Scammers claiming to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) are trying to dupe people into giving out their personal information, including their Social Security number. The SSA continues to be a popular choice for phone scammers.



Scammers are calling people on cell phones and landlines informing them that their Social Security numbers are being suspended due to suspicious activity. They then ask people to confirm their Social Security number and some say that people’s bank accounts will be frozen if they don’t withdraw cash.

As a reminder, law enforcement or government agencies will never call asking for money or threatening legal action. If you believe you’ve received a call from a scammer, hang up and do not return a call if you receive a message on your phone.

ENJOY VIRGINIA’S BEST FALL FOLIAGE

No matter where you live there are so many places to enjoy Virginia’s vibrant fall foliage. Of course many of our state parks offer a great opportunity to see peak foliage in October and November. According to the Virginia Department of Forestry, peak time tends to begin in the western mountains around mid-October and end in the eastern areas of our state in mid-November.

While you’re out looking for peak foliage this fall, please be sure to plan ahead for wet conditions. Make sure your windshield wipers are in good working condition. If driving on a road with excess water, slow down and avoid sudden movements with the steering wheel or brake pedal. If you feel like you’re floating, steer straight and gently release the gas pedal until you feel the tires make contact with the road surface. In an especially heavy downpour you may want to pull off the road until it’s safe to continue.

NEW ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR TDO PATIENTS

Governor Northam has launched a new transportation program for people seeking mental health services. According to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, about 99 percent of people served with temporary detention orders (TDOs) are driven by law enforcement, which is an enormous burden on Virginia’s public safety officers.

The TDO alternative transportation program is designed to provide dignity for those patients currently being transported by law enforcement officers and relieve local law enforcement of transporting TDO patients, freeing them for their intended public safety functions. This effort was a top legislative priority of VSA. The new program is projected to transport about 50% of all TDO’s once fully operational, addressing this critical need.

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 excited to welcome back cooler temperatures and fall foliage to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Fall in Virginia is a wonderful time for citizens to take in an activity that allows you to enjoy the outdoors, including taking a scenic drive or

biking route to view foliage across the state. To ensure this fall season is a safe and enjoyable one, I've included some practical tips to help keep you safe while driving on wet and slippery roadways as well as information on how to stay one step ahead of scammers who will do just about anything to dupe you out of your personal information and money. I hope you'll find this information valuable.

I want you to know public safety is our number one priority at my Sheriff's office. If you have any questions or concerns about the subjects we discuss in the issue — or crime prevention efforts in our community — please contact my staff or me.

As always, it is my privilege to serve as your sheriff. I urge you to help the Fauquier County's law enforcement efforts by reporting crimes or suspicious activity when you see them, so that we can do our very best to keep this community a safe place to work, play, live, and raise our families.

Sincerely,

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

Sheriff Robert Mosier
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DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

Virginia's next drug take-back day will take place on October 26, 2019 between 10:00-2:00 pm. This state-wide event is an effort to prevent prescription drug abuse in our communities, including Fauquier County, and to keep trace drugs out of our lakes and streams, since wastewater treatment plants cannot remove many compounds found in medications.



A few things to keep in mind if you would like to participate: 1) It's anonymous and free; 2) prescription and over-the counter medications will be accepted; and 3) Please do not give intravenous solutions, injectables, or needles.

Since the fall of 2010, the total amount of prescription drugs collected by the Department Enforcement Administration is now 11,816,393 pounds!

Drug take-back days are important because our state, along with many others across the country, is experiencing an opioid epidemic. Drug overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. and opioid addiction is driving this epidemic. Most people who abuse prescription painkillers indicate that they obtained the prescription drugs from friends or relatives for free.

Residents in communities all across Virginia, including Fauquier County, are urged to find out if their community is participating in a prescription drug take-back event and if so to drop off their unused, unwanted, or expired medications for safe disposal at their local law enforcement agencies.

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.