



NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION 2019



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

NEW LAWS TAKE EFFECT — WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

IN THIS ISSUE ...

New Laws Take Effect.....	2
Beware of This Scam.....	2
Annual Spring Conference.....	3
Pedestrian Deaths Spike.....	3
Buckle Up.....	3
Scholarships Awarded.....	3
Severe Weather Season	4
Message from Sheriff Robert Mosier.....	4



2019-2020

President

Sheriff James E. Brown, III
City of Charlottesville

Immediate Past President

Sheriff Barry E. Letterman
Appomattox County

First Vice President

Sheriff Mark A. Amos
Orange County

Secretary

Sheriff Karl S. Leonard
Chesterfield County

Treasurer

Sheriff Les R. Taylor
City of Winchester

Board Members

Sheriff Robert P. Mosier
Fauquier County

Sheriff J.J. McLaughlin, Jr.
New Kent County

Sheriff Michael W. Taylor
Pittsylvania County

Sheriff Ernest L. Giles, Sr.
Sussex County

Executive Director
John W. Jones

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION — NEW LAWS TAKE EFFECT



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:

- **Multiple school safety measures:** A number of school safety bills were signed into law, a result of recommendations submitted by the House Select Committee on School Safety, which formed in the wake of the Parkland, FL school shooting.
- **Change to the capital murder law:** Widows of slain Virginia State Police officers, including the widow of special agent Mike Walter lobbied for a bill that would make the mandatory minimum sentence for those convicted of the capital murder of a law enforcement officer life in prison.
- **Naloxone:** Employees of regional jails were added to the list of people who are authorized by law to possess and administer naloxone, the drug that reverses an opioid overdose. The law already allowed law enforcement officers, firefighters, and corrections and parole officers to administer naloxone as long as they had completed a training program approved by the Board of Pharmacy.
- **Increasing the age to buy tobacco:** Governor Ralph Northam signed into law a bill that raises the minimum age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21.
- **“Move Over” law:** The Virginia legislature passed a bill that would stiffen the penalty for drivers who do not move over for emergency vehicles with their lights activated while responding to a scene on a Virginia roadway. Now, the first-time drivers violating the law will be charged with reckless driving.

COMPUTER SUPPORT SCAMS TARGET OLDER CITIZENS

Fauquier County residents should be aware about a new scam that’s been targeting computer users nationwide, especially senior citizens. According to the Attorney General’s Scam Alert, scammers will try to trick consumers into buying costly computer tech support and repair services. Hackers will call (sometimes they spoof caller ID to make it look like a well-known company is calling) or use online pop up ads with a number to call and pretend to be from tech support. Scammers will claim your computer is compromised and needs to be “fixed.” They will then ask to gain remote access to your computer to “troubleshoot” the problem and ask for money to provide repairs or fake service contracts.



To avoid this scam, hang up on anyone calling that you didn’t expect who claims there’s a problem with your computer. Never wire money or pay for a service using a gift card or prepaid card because these types of payments are hard to reverse. If you need to repair your computer, seek assistance from someone you know and trust. If you gave a scammer your user name and password, change your password right away on any other sites that have the same password. In 2018, people reported losing \$55 million to these scams. And last year, people 60 and over were about five times more likely to report losing money to these scams than younger people.

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



SPECIAL THANKS!

More than 250 sheriffs and deputy sheriffs from across the state, along with exhibitors and speakers, attended the 2019 Virginia Sheriffs' Institute Spring Conference held April 24-26 in Norfolk, Virginia.

This year's conference provided an important forum for sheriffs and deputies to discuss new laws passed by the Virginia General Assembly and their impact on public safety and the duties of law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Waterside Marriott in Norfolk made an excellent venue for the event and now the sheriffs are looking forward to their annual conference later this fall. Many thanks to our Associate Members for making this year's spring meeting a resounding success!

PEDESTRIAN DEATHS HIGHEST SINCE 1990

2018 was the most dangerous year on record for Virginia pedestrians — 123 were killed according to DMV. Based on data provided by all 50 states and the District of Columbia, the Governors Highway Safety Association presented findings in their yearly report, "Spotlight on Highway Safety," which cited the following trends that are likely contributing to this increase in pedestrian deaths nationwide:

- More people are walking, including to work, which increases exposure;
- Most pedestrian fatalities take place on local roads, at night, and away from intersections where there is a lack of safe road crossings;
- In about half of traffic crashes that result in pedestrian deaths, speeding, distracted driving, drowsy driving, and alcohol impairment were reported;
- The number of SUVs, which generally cause more severe injuries than passenger cars, involved in pedestrian deaths has increased 50% since 2013.

As a pedestrian, there are a few things you can do to stay safe: Cross streets at marked crosswalks and in well-lit areas at night, obey traffic signals, look before you cross the road, watch for turning vehicles and never assume vehicles will stop, wear bright/light colored clothing and reflective materials, and don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing a street.

DRIVE SMART VIRGINIA

The Virginia Sheriffs' Association is a proud supporter of Drive Smart Virginia, an organization promoting traffic safety in the Commonwealth. The two best things you can do to protect yourself from a distracted driver are Buckle Up and Put the Phone Down.

According to the Drive Smart VA campaign:

- Three out of four fatal crashes occur within 25 miles of the victim's home.
- Most crashes causing death or injury occur at speeds below 40 miles per hour!
- Nearly 20% of Virginia drivers do not wear their seat belts.

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



2019 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



New Kent County Sheriff presents scholarship award

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 pursuing 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 Isabella Jontz, of Fauquier County, Virginia. Isabella is planning on attending Longwood University where she will be pursuing a course of study in Criminal Justice.

We're very pleased to announce that 94 scholarships were awarded to deserving students across the Commonwealth pursuing a career of service to community in law enforcement, thanks to the generosity of citizen supporters like you.

Full-time students are awarded \$1,000 scholarships; part-time students are awarded \$500 scholarships. That's an impressive \$92,500 going toward education costs for some great young people that will benefit everyone in our state. Your support is the reason we've had such tremendous success of our scholarship program year after year!

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. This summer I want to make sure you're armed with some important tips about what you and your family can do to stay safe while enjoying all of the wonderful activities that our great state has to offer.

If you're enjoying time outdoors be sure to keep cool and stay hydrated, wear sunscreen, and seek shade during the midday hours when ultraviolet rays are at their greatest. And if you or family members plan on going swimming, make sure to swim in designated areas supervised by lifeguards and actively supervise children and non-swimmers even if lifeguards are present. Be sure to wear a life jacket if you go boating. Of course no matter where you travel this summer, it's always a good idea to keep a well-stocked first aid kit in your car, since accidents can happen anywhere.

Please remember not to broadcast your travel plans all over social media. Thieves will use Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites to target the homes of people who post their travels. Don't be an easy target. Protect your home by locking all windows and closing most of the shades. Put a timer on some of your lights. Ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your house by picking up your mail and newspaper.

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 discussed in this issue of the VSI newsletter or with 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

TIPS TO STAY SAFE WHEN SEVERE WEATHER STRIKES

This season strong storms and even tornadoes could hit the Fauquier County area so it's important to be ready with a safety plan. Be prepared by selecting a shelter everyone in your family can retreat to if necessary, ensure your flashlights have batteries, and make sure cell phones are charged and vehicles have plenty of gas.



As a reminder: If you are under a tornado watch, conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop and you should stay tuned to a local weather channel for the latest information. Take time to prepare and review your safety plans. If you are outdoors, move to a safe shelter. If you live in a mobile home, leave well before severe weather reaches you and move to a safe building.

A tornado warning means that a tornado has been detected in your area and you should seek shelter immediately — a basement, small interior room, or interior hall on the lowest floor of a building offers the greatest protection. Get under something sturdy to protect your head.

Even if a summer storm does not produce a tornado, severe weather can bring large hail, strong wind gusts capable of hurtling debris into the air, and severe flooding. So please stay alert this summer and ensure everyone in your family is familiar with your severe weather safety plan.

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.