

FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

Annual Report Calendar Year 2010





Fredericksburg Police Department Annual Report – Calendar Year 2010

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*Cover photo courtesy of Robert Martin, The Free Lance-Star.
Other photos courtesy of PD staff and Picture People, Spotsylvania Towne Centre.*

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*This report is
dedicated to the
memory of
Officer E.A. Moore
8/25/1896 – 5/31/1925*



CHIEF'S MESSAGE



The year 2010 was highlighted by many unique challenges for the members of the Fredericksburg Police Department as we explored original ways to connect and communicate with our community. We take pride in ourselves for our history of producing “firsts” in technology and innovation in law enforcement – first in the nation to implement the autoChalk system for parking regulation, first police agency to solve a cold case homicide through a DNA database hit on a single hair, first department in Virginia to

successfully launch electronic ticketing in the patrol cars. Rather than satisfying ourselves with past achievements however, this record of forward progress requires that we must continually seek new challenges and explore creative solutions for the evolving problems facing our population.

One of the first challenges we faced in 2010 was decidedly not of our own design as we began the year by battling three major storms with record snowfall, one dubbed by the media as “*Snowmageddon*” because of its immense proportions that shut down many government services across the region and made responding to calls for service a difficult and even dangerous prospect.



The blizzard also forced the cancellation of the department's team participation in the annual Polar Plunge in Virginia Beach, which supports the athletes of Virginia Special Olympics. Only one of our team of plungers was able to make the trip in advance of the storm, and Detective Paul Dooley has continued to lead our department in fundraising efforts for this cause.



Squad 1 during the snow storm.



*Caroline Street.
Taken by Officer
Gloria Mejia.*

The inaugural Citizen's Police Academy held in the first two quarters of the year furthered our efforts toward increased connection and communication, as members of our business and residential communities participated in an eight week course designed to highlight our department's many special programs and talented professional staff. The success of that first Academy ensured that its undertaking will be an annual event.



Citizen's Police Academy 2010

We continued our foray into direct and progressive communication with the public by expanding on the use of our department Facebook page, whose fan base reached over 1000 users in 2010. Allied to that success was the launch of a "Crime Blotter" blog that is hosted by the online arm of the local publication **Free Lance-Star**. The blog is another example of an original approach to staying in contact with our constituency as it allows for unedited dissemination of information and a free exchange of commentary. The blog has proven to be very popular since its inception and receives approximately 20,000 hits each month.

Community based policing is the core philosophy that integrates all of these efforts of outreach and positive influence into a system of proactive problem-solving techniques. There were several changes made within the patrol division in 2010 to incorporate the community policing model into every squad, and there were reassignments made to the community police officers themselves, as we recognized the changing needs of our downtown area. The community policing initiative continues to grow and adapt as particular issues come to light.

Lastly, in 2010 our past history was united with our everyday concerns of the risks that face our police officers while serving this community, as we discovered the story of a previously unknown Fredericksburg police officer who lost his life in the line of duty in 1925. The members of our department were proud to pay homage to Officer Ellsworth Moore with the long overdue honors he deserved as the first known Fredericksburg law enforcement officer to pay the ultimate price in service to his community. We salute his memory.

Chief David Nye

OFFICER E.A. MOORE

In past decades it was an unfortunate but accepted fact that three Fredericksburg police officers had lost their lives in the line of duty. The story of how Sergeant Roy Glenn Wright and Officer William Franklin Mines were brutally gunned down behind a shopping center on May 5, 1964 was well-known. More recently, the Fredericksburg Police family endured the devastation of losing another officer on June 6, 2008 when Officer Todd Bahr was killed while protecting the life of a city resident.

But last April, a page of our city's history that had been seemingly lost for more than eight decades was rediscovered. While perusing old newspapers on the internet, Officer Jamie Walker came across a photograph taken 85 years earlier. The photo pictured a Fredericksburg police officer directing traffic at the intersection of Caroline Street and William Street. The caption declared that the officer's name was Ellsworth Alexander Moore and went on to say that he was killed in the line of duty.



Intrigued, Walker decided to dig deeper into the department's history to find out if a fallen officer had indeed been overlooked. Through hours of research conducted at the Central Rappahannock Regional Library and online searches of archived newspaper pages, Walker was able to piece together the events that culminated in a tragic event on May 31, 1925.

The front page of *The Free Lance* on June 1, 1925 read, "Traffic Policeman Dies Within Few Minutes After Crashing Into Ford Sedan". With the discovery of several other articles, the whole story emerged:

Ellsworth Alexander Moore was honorably discharged from the United States Marine Corps in April, 1919 at the rank of sergeant. He settled in Spotsylvania County with his wife, Annie, and was raising two daughters and a son when he was hired to be Fredericksburg's first traffic enforcement officer in September, 1924.

An article in *The Free Lance* on September 4, 1924 described Moore and his partner as being "attired in spick and span uniforms ...patiently, but firmly, directing unknowing drivers and sternly warning the offenders." It is very likely that this was the date that the photograph was taken. His "spick and span" uniform is actually his Marine Corps uniform, minus his sergeant stripes and proudly displaying his badge, gun belt and motorcycle boots.

The article also mentions Moore's "speedy motorcycle" which was the most common type of traffic enforcement vehicle of the time. The motorcycles of the 1920s were commonly employed without the benefits of flashing lights or sirens.

Over the next several months, Moore's name appeared regularly in the local newspapers as an arresting officer in traffic cases which ranged from speeding to "dry violations"—those prohibition-era liquor laws which were later repealed.

May 31, 1925 was a beautiful Sunday in Fredericksburg and many residents were out and about when the call came in that a car had been stolen from the front of a Princess Anne Street address.



The car belonged to a Marine gunnery sergeant, who contacted Sgt Chichester, the town sergeant. Chichester enlisted Moore's help to look for the car. While Chichester started south, Moore rode north, checking side streets and parking lots for the vehicle, eventually going as far as Quantico before turning back.

Chichester, meanwhile, had located the car in Ashland. He notified Headquarters that he'd recovered the vehicle and would be bringing it back to Fredericksburg, but the car was out of fuel, so it would take a while. When Moore returned to Headquarters, he was given the message to call off the search. It was almost five o'clock.

Moore was tired and dusty after a day on the motorcycle and set off for home, a farmhouse next to what is now Spotswood Baptist Church. After crossing into Spotsylvania County at Dead Man's Curve on Lafayette Boulevard, Moore rode to the top of Lee's Hill. Lafayette Blvd was part of Route 1 in those days, and was the busiest road in the area.

At the top of the hill he met a speeding car headed into town. Moore turned around and gave chase. As he descended the hill he swung into the southbound lane so that he could ride up next to the driver's window and direct him to the shoulder. It was then that he noticed a Ford sedan coming toward him. He tried to merge back to the right but it was too late and seconds later Officer Moore lay dying in the roadway, his bike atop him.

Residents watching from their porches rushed to his aid, along with passing motorists. One driver loaded Moore into his car and rushed him downtown, to the original Mary Washington Hospital. Dr. John E. Cole intercepted the vehicle and accompanied Moore to the hospital. Annie arrived quickly but was not allowed to see the unconscious officer before he took his last breath a few minutes after arriving. Annie was pregnant with Moore's fourth child.

Chief of Police Silas Perry had responded to the scene of the crash to investigate. His findings were presented that evening at a “Coroner’s Jury” which was convened at the fire house. At 11:00 pm it issued its verdict: “We, the jury, find that Officer E. A. Moore met his death through an unavoidable accident in colliding with a Ford sedan while supposedly pursuing a speeding automobile.”

Two days later, on June 2, 1925, Officer Moore was laid to rest in Fredericksburg National Cemetery—less than 500 yards from where the accident happened. At his funeral, Chief Perry described Moore as an excellent officer, “being energetic, alert, willing and courteous. He was always ready to answer a call to duty, no matter whether it was connected to traffic duties ... in his death Fredericksburg loses the services of a valuable officer.” He received military honors at his burial and his pallbearers included Chief Perry, Dr. Cole and one of the first Virginia State Troopers, Morris Sneed.

Based on the information from the 85 year-old article, Officer Walker paid a visit to the Fredericksburg National Cemetery in late April. There, atop Marye’s Heights he located the grave of E. A. Moore. The date of death corresponded with that given in the newspaper article.

Even with this corroborating information, Walker couldn’t understand why this story was so obscure and he wanted more proof. He first applied for a copy of Moore’s death certificate and then began searching for any of Moore’s relatives he could find. Using internet search tools and starting with the names of the children listed in the original article, Walker found a name that seemed to match.

Terry Jack Moore was living in White Lake, Michigan when he received a call from Walker, who inquired about his grandfather. Moore was stunned. He told Walker that E.A. Moore’s tragic death was a well-known part of his family history and that efforts had been made in the past to illuminate the story of Officer Moore’s sacrifice, but little had been done. However, these efforts had pre-dated the establishment of the National Law Enforcement Memorial.

Terry explained that after Officer Moore's death, the family had relocated to Michigan. Part of the family returned years later, but by then the story was old news. After an article about the discovery of Officer Moore's death was published in *The Free Lance-Star*, Walker was contacted by two other of Moore's grandchildren, James and John Wheeler. They, too, corroborated the story.

Officer Ron Swaney approached Walker and mentioned that the 85th anniversary of Moore's death was quickly approaching. Coincidentally, the anniversary fell on Memorial Day. Swaney organized a small wreath-laying ceremony to be held at Moore's grave, and Moore's grandson Terry and drove from Michigan with wife Tracy to attend. In addition to many local residents who attended to pay their respects, motorcycle officers from Spotsylvania, Stafford and Fairfax Counties participated as well. On May 31, 2010, amid full police honors, Officer Moore's sacrifice was finally commemorated in a manner appropriate to a fallen officer.



A request was sent to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund seeking to have Officer Moore's name added to the memorial wall in Washington, D.C. The request was approved and Moore's name will be added in May 2011.

Additionally, Moore's photo now hangs in the Police Headquarters lobby beside those of Wright, Mines and Bahr as a proud, yet solemn reminder of the sacrifices made by those officers. Moore's image is very distinct from the others, however. It has endured for nearly a century to become a larger-than-life icon, showing a lone police officer standing proudly at his post—serving, protecting and inspiring the people of Fredericksburg at any cost.



YEAR 2010 IN REVIEW

January

In 1885, the City of Fredericksburg established the Police Department as its own entity and created the office of Chief of Police. Prior to that, law enforcement duties were vested in the Town Sergeant who oversaw the town constables, the town militia, and the volunteer fire company. To mark the occasion of the Police Department's 125th anniversary, in January Chief Nye authorized the commissioning of a commemorative badge that Fredericksburg officers, both current and retired, could wear during the anniversary year. In keeping with the historical theme, the shield style badge was selected to reflect an early style of badge used by the department.



February

The Police Department received an award from the Virginia E-911 Wireless Board for the implementation of a Geographic Information System (GIS). Combined with additional funds secured through Fred Transit and executed by the City's Information Technology department, the scope of the project included the full data conversion of City paper tax maps, the development of a City-wide mapping data model, and an interface to the E-911 Center for use in emergency response applications. The GIS project also encompassed a link to the City's real estate tax data, map book development, and the implementation of an internal and public-access GIS website.

March

All appliqué's that were previously affixed to the rear side columns of the patrol cars were removed and replaced with the CALEA accreditation symbol. These stickers signify our tremendous accomplishment in achieving national accreditation from the Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

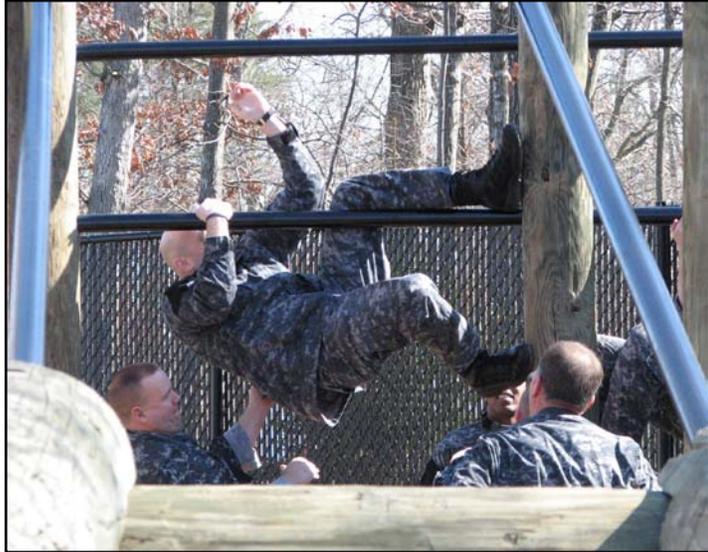


April

The Police Department went live with another technologically advanced tool to fight crime called TIP₄₁₁. TIP₄₁₁ from Citizen Observer is a web-based application that allows cell phone users to send information anonymously to the police via text message. With the wide scale use of cell phones, the TIP₄₁₁ system will allow our citizens to report a crime or emergency situation without saying a word, providing a secure and easy transmission of potentially valuable information. Text messages require less cell phone power and transmit faster than voice calls, and can be sent even when voice traffic is jammed or signal strength is too low for voice transmissions. The anonymity of the messages encourages citizens to engage with the police in solving the problems in their communities, making TIP₄₁₁ a fitting choice for our philosophy of community-based policing strategies.

May

The newly built confidence course, located behind Police Department Headquarters, was the focus of three television news segments on May 7. Airing on WTTG Fox5 out of Washington D.C. with features reporter Holly Morris, the live segments aired at 7:40 am, 8:40 am, and 9:40 am. Members of the Police Department's



Special Equipment and Tactical Team (SETT) demonstrated the use of the various obstacles that were built entirely through the physical efforts of the SETT members themselves, with supporting donations of materials and funds from the Department of Public Works, the Fire Department, Dominion Virginia Power, and other local businesses. During the feature segments, Ms. Morris participated in simulated training exercises with the SETT team, including taking instruction in tactical rappelling techniques.





June

The Police Department received its first positive hit from the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), a national DNA database maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The DNA evidence, including blood and a cigarette butt, was collected by detectives in 2009 following a burglary at the Kingdom Baptist Church. Although initially the investigation was stalled because the unknown suspect's DNA profile was not on file in Virginia's databank, CODIS linked the DNA evidence to an individual who was arrested in an unrelated case in Stafford County during the same timeframe as the burglary.

July

The City was awarded a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services to implement the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). The award of \$74,972.00 funded the purchase of AFIS equipment and partially funded the salary of a part-time contract latent fingerprint examiner. The AFIS provides law enforcement in the Fredericksburg region the capability of analyzing fingerprint evidence in-house, and facilitates the identification and prosecution of those who commit crimes in local jurisdictions.

August

To prepare for the possibility of a criminal incident involving an active shooter, patrol officers and detectives with the Police Department participated in realistic scenario training designed to simulate live fire and engagement with a deadly suspect. An active shooter is defined as an armed person who has used deadly physical force on other persons and continues to do so while having unrestricted access to additional victims. With cooperation from the Fredericksburg school system and prior to the return of students, classrooms and hallways at James Monroe High School was used for



exercises that allow police officers to experience armed confrontations in a controlled but authentic setting. Taken from the hard lessons learned at school shootings such as Columbine and Virginia Tech, the objective of officers participating in active shooter training is simply to aggressively seek and disable the person or persons causing the deadly threat.

September

On September 25, the Police and Fire Departments assisted the federal Drug Enforcement Administration with its *National Take Back Initiative* by providing safe and convenient drop-off sites for the proper disposal of prescription and non-prescription medications. Police and Fire personnel and staff from Mary Washington Health Care were available at the drop-off locations to oversee the surrender of drugs and medications from households in the City and surrounding localities. During the four-hour take back initiative, City staff coordinated the disposal of over 380 pounds of unused and/or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs.

October

A total of twenty-five employees volunteered to participate in the LawFit assessment program, designed to measure physical performance that relates to the job requirements of law enforcement professionals and run by our in-house fitness expert Sergeant Lloyd Holland. After undergoing a medical screening, the participants competed in trials that included a 1.5 mile run, bench press, sit-ups, pull-ups or lat pull-downs, and a flexibility test. The final event was an agility test that included obstacles an officer might encounter while chasing a suspect on foot. Each competitor's overall score was factored according to the participant's age, weight, and gender, and ten employees concluded the tests with total scores that entitled them to Gold, Silver, or Bronze level achievement recognition. The LawFit program is intended to encourage Police Department employees to maintain an above average level of physical fitness, thus improving the ability to perform their essential tasks and reducing the likelihood of job-related injury.

November

With the City's Information Technology Department coordinating the technical aspects of the transition, the LiveScan fingerprinting system was successfully relocated from the Police Department, at 2200 Cowan Boulevard, to Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court at 701 Princess Anne Street. Since the majority of fingerprints taken via LiveScan are for criminal charges or other judicial purposes such as concealed weapons permits, the downtown location offered much more convenience to the public and to the court system. The Fredericksburg Sheriff's Department graciously assumed full responsibility for the system at its new location, thus providing an important service to citizens. LiveScan is a digital process of fingerprinting that transmits the print images to the Virginia State Police for recording and verification through the National Crime Information Center.

December

The Police Department launched a new communication tool after being approached by editors at fredericksburg.com, the online arm of the Free Lance-Star, to contribute a blog devoted to crime and law enforcement concerns in Fredericksburg. In an effort to enhance the department's opportunities for communication and interaction with the community, Public Information Officer Natatia Bledsoe began posting the daily crime reports and other relevant topics to the blog forum in mid-December. The monthly readership of the "City Police Blotter" quickly reached over twenty thousand hits.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Detective Wayne Hunnicutt was selected as the Fredericksburg Police Department's Officer of the Year due to his outstanding investigative efforts that led to the identification and closure of more than twenty-five bank robbery cases in Virginia and Maryland as well as North and South Carolina.

At 5:54 pm on November 19, 2010, a Fredericksburg resident called 911 to report that she pulled into the drive-thru of the Union Bank and Trust at 700 Kenmore Ave and saw the bank tellers on the floor. The witness also saw a person all in black come into view inside the bank. As the witness was leaving the parking lot, she saw two male suspects run around the front corner of the bank and toward Hanover Street. The witness

left the area while relaying her information to police in her cell phone.

In approximately two minutes, the first police officer arrived on the scene and obtained information from the four bank employees who were inside unharmed. The employees reported that two male subjects ran into the bank, jumped over the counter, and demanded money from the tellers. The suspects were black males wearing all black clothing and one of the suspects displayed a handgun. The employees complied with the suspects' demands and the suspects left the bank with a significant amount of cash, which they placed into a bag or pillowcase they brought with them. The employees were told to lie on the floor while the suspects fled the scene.

All available police officers responded to the area. At 6:15 pm, an officer radioed in that he was checking two black males wearing black clothing on foot in the area of Homeland Motors in the 2400 block of Princess Anne Street. Another officer discovered a green Honda with Maryland license plates in the same vicinity; the vehicle had a flat tire and a male subject who appeared to be pretending to be asleep in the back seat. The two males on

foot stated that the Honda was theirs, and they had a flat and were trying to borrow a jack or find a spare. Apparently while fleeing the scene of the robbery, the driver of the Honda hit a curb and blew out his tire, explaining why the suspects only made it as far as Princess Anne Street.

Inside the Honda, the officer could see on the floor a pillowcase that appeared to have something inside it and under the pillowcase was a bulletproof vest. All three subjects were detained pending the arrival of detectives. The vehicle was impounded and subsequently the money from the Union Bank and Trust was recovered as well as a handgun and other evidence.

After further investigation, the suspects were arrested for robbery and conspiracy and incarcerated at the Rappahannock Regional Jail under no bond:

David Lowery, 36, Upper Marlboro, MD

Tyre Johnson, 27, Temple Hills, MD

Derek Tompkins, 35, Upper Marlboro, MD

A few days after the robbery on the night before Thanksgiving, Detective Wayne Hunnicutt learned that one of the suspects (Tompkins) wanted to talk to investigators, so Wayne left his family at home and drove to the jail to interview him. During this and subsequent interviews, Tompkins provided detailed information about three accomplices and over twenty-five robberies, some of which have still not been identified with certainty.

The fourth suspect named by Tompkins, Mustafa Naeem, 56, of Upper Marlboro, committed a bank robbery in 2009 at Virginia Partner's Bank on Plank Road in Fredericksburg; he was arrested shortly afterwards and has been in jail ever since. Prior to the Virginia Partner's Bank robbery, Naeem was involved with Tompkins and Lowery in numerous crimes.

Federal officials have since assumed the responsibility for prosecuting the cases involving Tompkins, Lowery, Naeem, and Johnson. Detectives in various jurisdictions in Virginia and Maryland have with confidence closed their investigations into unsolved bank robberies stretching back a decade or more. It is believed that the list of known robberies is still not complete, and additional crimes may be attributed to one or more of the accomplices as the investigation continues.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Working as the victim's advocate for the Police Department, Elizabeth Zins-Reed always performs her duties with commitment and professionalism. In 2010, Lys established a program, The Now Fund, which assists victims of domestic violence with monetary needs to pay rent and utilities, purchase groceries, and facilitate transportation



to court when normal driving distances are exceeded. Lys was also instrumental in forming a new organization to more closely address the needs of domestic violence victims.

The new City Batterers Program supplements the batterers program run by the Rappahannock Council for Domestic Violence, as there exists an overwhelming overflow of individuals ordered by the court to attend. The City Batterers Program will work in close concert with the department's Domestic Violence Unit - comprised of Detective Jennifer Santiago and Victim's Advocate Zins-Reed - and Community Based Probation.

Lys provides a service to members of the community who don't otherwise have a voice, and her contributions to the victims of violence are measured throughout the community. Lys is also a great asset to the Detective Division outside of the normal scope of her duties by assisting with the transcription of interviews and other such tasks that overwhelm a busy agency. She consistently demonstrates dedication to her job and true professionalism in dealing with her co-workers and citizens.

AUXILIARY OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Throughout the year Auxiliary Officer Chris Urquhart has answered the call of duty by providing his professionalism and dedication to our Department on a regular basis. Often he responded to cover for a patrol shift that was short on staffing.

His monthly service hours averaged 28.5, exceeding the minimum by 8.5 hours each month. In addition to his service time, Chris further completed 24 hours of in-service training.

In a great service for this Department, Auxiliary Officer Urquhart attended all of his assigned City Council Meetings, always representing this Department to its highest standards.

CRIME ANALYSIS

The Fredericksburg Police Department tracks crime information under the state-level system of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR). Developed and administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the UCR program provides a nationwide view of crime based on the submission of statistical data from law enforcement agencies across the country. Per State code, the central repository for crime statistics in Virginia rests with the Department of State Police, which compiles the data from all of the participating agencies into an annual publication.

The crime information is collected under the National Incident Based Reporting System (IBR) format, which standardizes the crime data captured for each single incident and arrest within the twenty-two offense categories.

Some of the major benefits derived from the IBR system include: greater specificity in reporting; more correlation between offenses, property, victims, offenders, and arrestees; expanded victim/offender relationships; distinction between attempted and completed crimes and increased reporting of various circumstances relative to specific crimes. The IBR system requires that extensive data be reported for *each crime* occurring during a particular incident. The IBR system also defines each specific crime to ensure consistency and accuracy of the data.

CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT			
CRIME	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2009	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2010	CHANGE
Murder & Non-Negligent Homicide <i>Count by Number of Victims</i>	2	0	-2
Forcible Rape <i>Count by Number of Victims</i>	6	10	+4
Robbery	22	20	-2
Aggravated Assault	85	71	-14
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	98	119	+21
Larceny	980	937	-43
Motor Vehicle Theft	25	31	+6
TOTAL YTD	1,218	1,188	-30

The statistical chart represents the number of reported major crimes in calendar years 2009 and 2010. The data in the comparison may differ from those published in the Virginia State Police Crime Report and from previous annual reports for one or more reasons, most commonly because the case status or classification of a report may have changed since the publication of either document.

Homicide

The willful killing of one human being by another

While the annual number of homicides in Fredericksburg is consistently low at an average of three per year, the year 2010 passed without a single murder. The last year that we experienced this fortunate absence of deadly crime was 2003.

Forcible Rape

The carnal knowledge of a person, forcibly and/or against that person's will; or not forcibly or against the person's will where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity, or because of his/her youth

While this year's statistics include an increase in the number of rape offenses, of the ten reported in 2010 only two were committed by offenders who were not either an acquaintance or member of the household of the victim. Three of the ten investigations were closed with the arrest of the offender. It is notable that according to the standards for Uniform Crime Reporting, attempted rapes are included in the total count of this category of offenses.

Robbery

The taking, or attempting to take, anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody, or care of another person by force or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm

The number of robberies has continued to decline during the past two years, with a total of twenty reported in Fredericksburg in 2010. Of those twenty cases, eight were closed by arrest, three are still active investigations, and the remaining nine have been suspended due to a current lack of unexplored investigative leads and/or the non-cooperation of the victim. Suspended cases will be reopened with the discovery of new information.

Notably, while the national average¹ for the closure of robbery cases remains relatively stable at 25-26%, Fredericksburg's robbery closure rate for 2010 was a strong 40%.

¹ Federal Bureau of Investigation "Crime in the United States" 2009

Aggravated Assault

An unlawful attack by one person upon another wherein the offender uses a weapon or displays it in a threatening manner, or the victim suffers obvious severe or aggravated bodily injury involving apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, possible internal injury, severe laceration, or loss of consciousness

The number of aggravated assaults showed a strong decline in 2010. While the factors contributing to this decrease are not entirely known, it is believed that our department-wide adoption of the community policing model and the aggressive efforts of the Domestic Violence Unit both played strong roles in the reduction of this violent crime.

Burglary

The unlawful entry into a building or other structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft

The most significant difference in crime statistics occurred in the category of burglaries, which saw an increase from 98 reported cases in 2009 to 119 cases in 2010. The escalation of burglary reports was entirely within the sub-category of commercial burglaries, which almost doubled from a total of 28 in 2009 to 53 in 2010.

While the latest data available for the closure rate¹ of burglaries indicates a national average of 12.5% closed by arrest or exceptional clearance, the Fredericksburg Police Department closed 32.7% of its burglary cases in 2010. A total of 34 burglary cases were closed with an arrest, some of them involving one offender who committed multiple crimes. Five cases of burglary that occurred at Mill Park Terrace were exceptionally cleared due to the decease of the suspect responsible for all of them.

Larceny

The unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession, or constructive possession, of another person

The crime of larceny remains the most common offense reported to the Fredericksburg Police Department. For the second year in a row, the number of reported larcenies has decreased in the face of an economy that might lead analysts to expect otherwise. Of the larceny cases, shoplifting and the theft of items from unattended vehicles were the most prevalent.

Motor Vehicle Theft

Theft of a motor vehicle. A motor vehicle is defined as a self-propelled vehicle that runs on the surface of land and not on rails

The apparent increase in motor vehicle thefts this year in relation to last year does not take into account that the number of thefts in 2009 was significantly lower than the previous two years. The total number of motor vehicle larcenies for 2010 still shows a general decline in this category when comparing statistics over a five-year span.

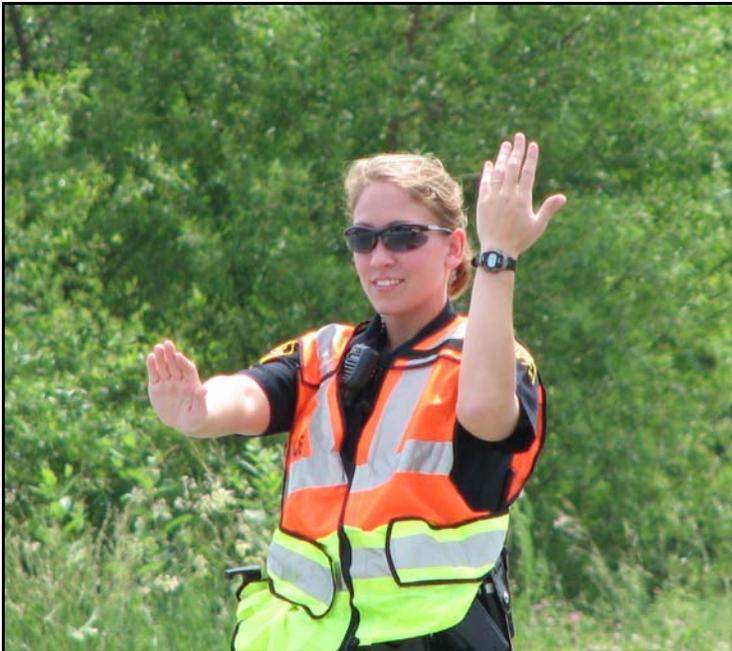
The overall crime rate in Fredericksburg continues to reflect the nationwide trend of decreasing numbers of both violent crime and property crime, despite the struggling economy. Criminology experts fail to comprehensively agree on the reasons behind the falling statistics, although several factors are commonly attributed to at least partially explain the move toward safer neighborhoods. While it seems reasonable to assume that a recession would cause a rise in criminal activity, the reality appears to be just the opposite. The effects of an economic slump include higher unemployment and a reduction in consumer spending, which means that homes and property are *less* likely to be left unattended and vulnerable to opportunistic thieves, and there are simply fewer items of value being purchased that then become targets for crime.²

Other dynamics that are plausibly suggested to explain the drop in crime to some degree are the increased rates of incarceration and the universal aging of the population. Individuals who commit crimes are most often males between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five¹. As this segment of the population at large becomes less significant, through punitive confinement or aging, the overall number of those persons who are *most likely* to perform criminal acts also decreases. Many criminologists judge that the demographic makeup of a community is a more accurate predictor of crime than the economy or any other factor.³

² “The Great American Crime Decline” Oxford University Press, 2007

³ “The Crime Drop in America” 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, November 2005

A third element that must be considered is the development of proactive policing tactics and enhancement in crime-solving technology, particularly in the sphere of forensic evidence analysis. In Fredericksburg, we embrace the technical advancements while also remaining committed to “old school” philosophies of community-based policing. These combined strategies allow our officers and detectives to provide the most effective services to the citizens of the City.



Officer Alexandra Cameron directs traffic on Cowan Boulevard.



Traffic Officer Jamie Walker operates the LIDAR on William Street.

COMMUNITY POLICING

In 2010, the community policing initiative continued to grow and encompassed changes that were particularly relevant to the evolving needs of the City. Community policing is somewhat of a throw-back to the old fashioned “beat cop” in which officers are assigned full-time to specific neighborhoods in order to solve the problems that generate crime and the fear of crime. By bringing residents, the business community, and other City agencies into the problem-solving process, officers are able to address issues using both traditional police strategies and innovative approaches tailored to the unique needs of a neighborhood.

Community policing was introduced in Fredericksburg in 2006 through a partnership between the Police Department and the National Housing Trust, a non-profit organization that specializes in improving the conditions in housing complexes that are faced with unique challenges. After purchasing Hazel Hill Apartments, NHT approached the Police Department to request an officer for assignment to the neighborhood. Chief David Nye made the commitment to establish community policing in Hazel Hill, the surrounding Darbytown neighborhood, and the Mayfield community. Officer Ron Swaney was the first to volunteer for the new initiative.

In 2007, the Police Department was able to expand community policing through a grant aimed at reducing crime in immigrant and minority communities. Officer Kenny Camp and Officer Carlos Reyes were selected to serve the apartment and townhouse complexes in the Fall Hill corridor (Heritage Park, Central Park Townhomes, Fall Hill Apartments, Crestview Apartments, and Forest Village). The officers engaged the residents, property owners, faith community, and business community to bring about a significant decrease in crime and quality of life issues. In 2010, Officer Reyes accepted a new assignment in the Detective division, and his responsibilities as CPO in the Fall Hill corridor were assumed by Officer Heather Lloyd. Officers Camp and Lloyd continue to see a steady decrease in crime and complaints in their neighborhoods.



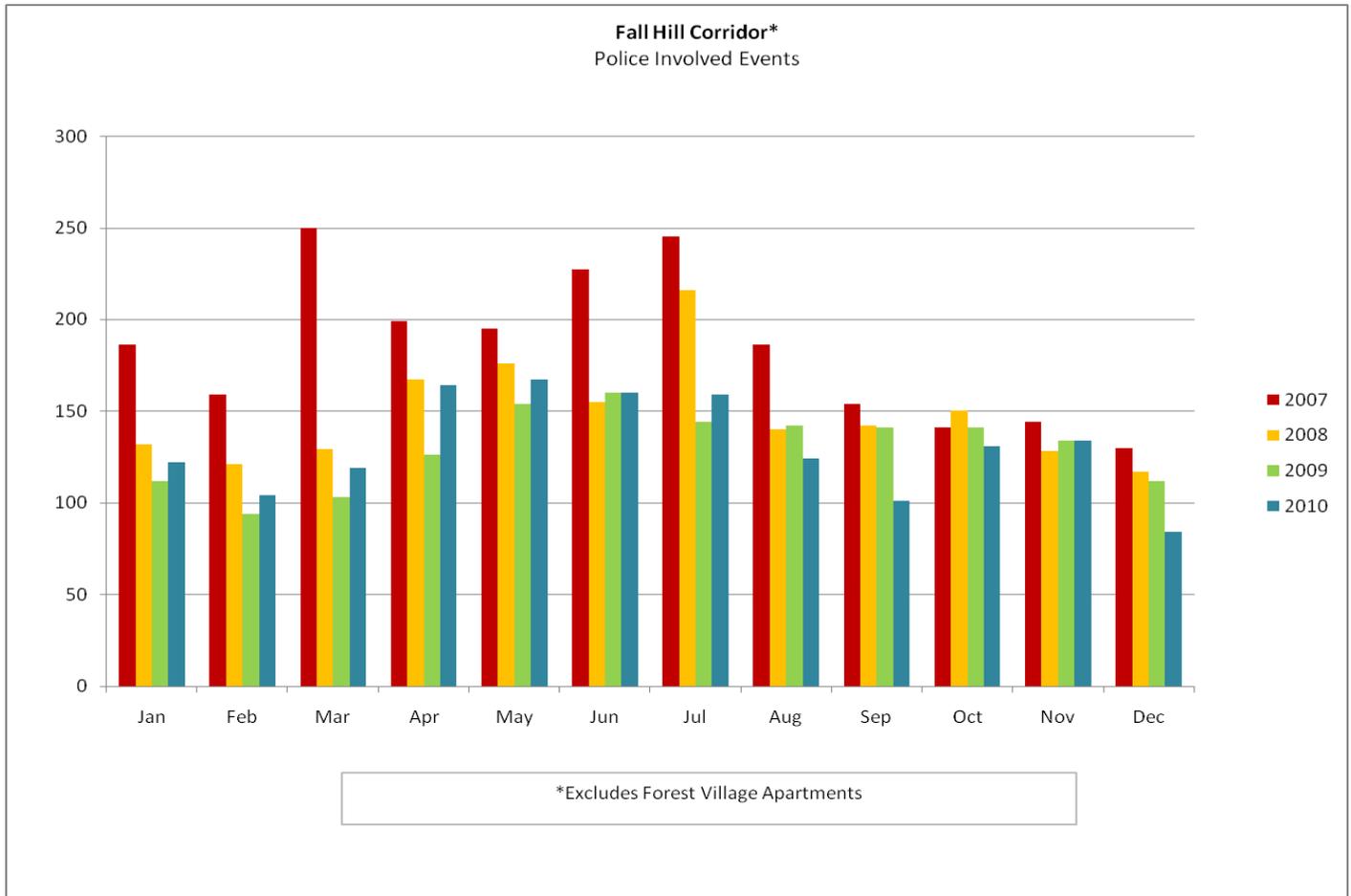
Officer Heather Lloyd



Officer Kenny Camp



Officer Ron Swaney



The demonstrated success of community policing allowed the Police Department in 2010 to expand to the downtown and adjoining Rising Sun neighborhood. On May 1, Community Police Officer Ron Swaney began his new assignment in the downtown district, described as the area encompassing Lafayette Boulevard to Fauquier Street and from the riverbank to Charles Street. Officer Swaney's beat also includes William Street from Charles Street to Washington Avenue. The expansion of community policing into the downtown district was recognized as a compelling issue for City Council in 2008, as the unique features of the downtown area make it an ideal neighborhood to reap the benefits of community policing. Community police officers employ proactive policing strategies that include frequent citizen contact, high visibility patrol, crime analysis, resident surveys, and focused enforcement on common violations that negatively impact the quality of life in a neighborhood.

Officer Swaney had already been taking steps to address the special challenges that face the downtown by developing a training seminar for restaurant staff entitled "Managing the Nightlife". The seminar familiarizes employees with alcohol regulations, fire codes governing overcrowding, tips for recognizing fake IDs, and strategies for dealing with intoxicated persons. He also developed a strong working relationship with Micah Ministries to address issues with the City's homeless population.

In October, the CPOs hosted a new training course called "Minding the Store", designed to inform and educate the downtown retail merchants about the concerns related to retail fraud and theft. Open to owners and employees of businesses in the downtown district, the two-hour comprehensive class focused on the prevention of credit card fraud, the detection of counterfeit traveler's checks and currency, and tips on combating shoplifting. The CPOs also offered recommendations on what actions should be taken when retail staff is confronted with a robbery attempt.



One of Officer Swaney's earliest tasks as the downtown CPO was to distribute a survey to the businesses and homes in the downtown asking residents to identify the problems they see most often. "Nobody knows the problems in a neighborhood better than the people who live and work there" says Swaney.

In August, the CPOs participated in National Night Out, and neighborhood events were scheduled in Hazel Hill, Mayfield, Twin Lakes and the Fall Hill corridor. Patrol officers were encouraged to get out in the communities and spend time with the residents who participated in National Night Out, along with the community police officers who helped to promote it. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.



National Night Out 2010 – Hazel Hill

As a way to further enhance the communication between our department and the residents we serve, students from the University of Mary Washington began providing volunteer hours with the Police Department as Spanish translators. UMW students volunteer their time by riding with officers in patrol cars and assisting in the E-911 Center, supplying immediate translation services to victims in need of help from Police, Fire, or EMS.

The students also facilitate interviews with Spanish-speaking suspects and crime witnesses who are encountered during an officer's patrol shift. The cooperative arrangement between the University and the Police Department allows the students to satisfy internship and public service requirements of their degree programs, and it provides a direct and vital communication link between City law enforcement and the Spanish-speaking members of the population.

The tenets of community policing have also been adopted to become a larger part of the Police Department's overall philosophy. Regular patrol officers no longer rotate through patrol assignments on a weekly basis; they work long-term beats in dedicated patrol zones to make sure they become very familiar with the residents, business owners, and problem areas within their zone.

Officers are expected to look beyond the symptom of a citizen complaint to the cause of the conditions that created the complaint, and they are charged with the responsibility to follow through on a complaint or report of a crime all the way to its resolution. Long-term patrol zones promote continuity in problem-solving and also encourage all officers to take ownership of the issues and concerns in their community.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Out with the old.

On April 1, Officer James Shelhorse retired after providing over thirty years of service to the City of Fredericksburg. Jimmy began his career with the Police Department as an Auxiliary Officer, then became a full-time member of our team, where he distinguished himself in Patrol, as the founder of the Equestrian Unit, and as the department's Public Information Officer.

On September 1, Lieutenant Jim Lynch retired after giving fourteen years of service to the City, which followed his long career with the Arlington Fire Department. Jim held assignments as a patrol officer, as a member of the Special Detail Unit, and as a detective in Vice/Narcotics, then advanced through promotions until reaching the rank of Lieutenant in 2005. Assigned to the office of Accreditation and Professional Standards in 2006, Jim led our agency to national accreditation by re-writing the department's policy manual and successfully directing the CALEA accreditation assessment.

On October 1, Lieutenant Greg Lettner retired after providing twenty-seven years of service to the City of Fredericksburg. After finishing first in his class at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, Greg held assignments as a patrol officer, as the department's Training Officer, as a detective, and as a K-9 handler. In 1995, Greg was honored as the Fredericksburg Jaycee's Officer of the Year for his exemplary service. In the course of his career, Greg advanced through promotions until reaching the rank of Lieutenant in 2007.

In with the new.

On February 25, thirteen dedicated individuals graduated from the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy's Law Enforcement Basic (Auxiliary) class. These volunteers had shown extraordinary commitment by meeting virtually every Saturday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm in order to receive certification as law enforcement professionals. Fredericksburg's auxiliary officers Marc Mains, Donald Lee Ridenour II, and Aimee Scott were sworn in at the Circuit Court on graduation day, and Officer Scott was immediately hired as a regular patrol officer with the City. Officer Ridenour joined our regular forces in October.



Officers Scott, Mains, and Ridenour are sworn in by the Honorable Judge Willis.

In anticipation of the retirements of Lieutenants Lynch and Lettner, Chief Nye requested and received approval to fill two overhire positions through a competitive recruitment process. From that hiring process, we gained Nick Wagner, from Target loss prevention, and Robert Brown, from the Rappahannock Regional Jail. In December, Officers Wagner and Brown graduated from Officer Basic, an eighteen week training course at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy.



FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

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