

Fredericksburg Police Department

Annual Report 2011

Chief's Message

The year 2011 was highlighted by programs that exemplify our dedication to providing outstanding service to the community through advancements in technology, community outreach, and professional development. From expansion of crime fighting capabilities through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System to the launching of new media platforms for communication with the public, the Fredericksburg Police Department continues to demonstrate a firm commitment to the safety and concerns of residents, visitors, and business owners in the City.

In addition to embracing the most modern tools available to law enforcement, the department integrates the community concerns into the operation of the agency through active engagement in many different outreach initiatives.



In 2011, the Police Department's commitment to community concerns included participation in the Torch Run and Polar Plunge for Virginia Special Olympics,

National Night Out, the Drug Enforcement Administration's Take Back Initiative, our own Citizen's Police Academy and Managing the Nightlife seminars, and a partnership with the University of Mary Washington to employ student interns as volunteer Spanish language interpreters.

Many employees of the Police Department tackled personal and professional challenges in 2011. A large number participated in LawFit to improve their health and physical fitness, some earned recognition from their colleagues through the Employee Awards program and from their instructors at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, and two ground-breaking female officers gained competitive berths on the Special Equipment and Tactical Team.

There were well-deserved promotions during the past year, and many individuals improved their technical skills through specialized training and advanced certification courses. The commitment to excellence throughout the agency was also demonstrated through the creation and adoption of the Career Development Plan, designed to provide a roadmap for employees who strive to enhance their education and proficiency as law enforcement professionals.

As Chief of the Fredericksburg Police Department, I am extremely proud of the high level of service that is provided to the citizens of the City by my dedicated staff of sworn and civilian employees. I invite you to read this report of our accomplishments and contributions to our community.

Links to Contents

Click the links below to skip to that page.

[Chief's Message](#)

[Automated Fingerprint Identification System](#)

[Communication through Social Media](#)

[Year in Review](#)

[Community Partnerships](#)

[Employee Achievements](#)

[Crime Analysis](#)

[Awards](#)

Automated Fingerprint Identification System

On March 2, 2011, the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) officially began operating at the City Police Department headquarters. Funding for both the AFIS hardware and for the certified Fingerprint Examiner, Detective Patrick Lamb, was provided by a federal grant administered through the Department of Criminal Justice Services¹. Lamb is qualified to testify in court as an expert Fingerprint Examiner through training with the FBI.

The AFIS system consists of a secure computer, a specialized scanner, and a digital camera, which capture the images preserved as latent finger or palm prints collected at a crime scene and transmits those images and their



associated information to the statewide repository for print data located at the Virginia State Police office in Chesterfield. Fingerprint information will also be collected from all arrestees in the Fredericksburg region and added to the state database for compilation and comparison to evidence connected to crimes throughout the Commonwealth. AFIS terminals are currently located in the four state forensics laboratories and twenty-one other Virginia law enforcement agencies.

When a crime scene print is scanned and added to the AFIS database, the fingerprint evidence is compared against all known offenders whose prints are already in the database and against other crime scene print evidence that may yet be unidentified, thus potentially linking crimes and offenders across the entire state. When AFIS identifies a potential fingerprint match, images of the prints selected for comparison are shown in magnified scale on the AFIS monitor, allowing the Fingerprint Examiner to make the final determination of a positive hit. Fingerprint evidence no longer has to be submitted to the state lab for examination, thus saving an enormous amount of time in the investigative process.

On May 24, 2011, Fredericksburg's AFIS scored its first hit after a city resident reported a burglary at her home. Here's the synopsis:

1000 block Dortha Ct, 5/24 1:30 am - 6:30 am. A resident reported that she discovered her keys missing from the house and her purse and GPS stolen from her vehicle. The investigation determined that the offender had entered the home through an unlocked door and taken the keys to all three of the residents' vehicles. The offender rummaged through all of the vehicles but only stole property from one of them. The offender then placed the keys belonging to two of the vehicles back inside the house before leaving the scene. Detectives collected fingerprint evidence and within 90 minutes, the suspect was identified as a known offender whose prints were already in the AFIS system. At 3:00 pm, Timothy Tolson, 20, of Fredericksburg was arrested at a friend's apartment and charged with burglary, grand larceny, and three counts of tampering with a vehicle. The stolen GPS was recovered from Tolson and the stolen purse was later found in a dumpster. Tolson was incarcerated at the Rappahannock Regional Jail under no bond.

This crime perfectly illustrates the value of the AFIS technology. The crime occurred during the early morning hours of May 24 and within twelve hours, the offender was identified and in custody.



Facsimile of fingerprint comparison on the AFIS monitor

Communicating Through Social Media

The Police Department is uniquely committed to the use of social media as an effective way to communicate with the public and demonstrate our promise of transparency and truthfulness. The [Fredericksburg PD Facebook page](#) has a strong fan base of over 1600 followers, and our [Twitter account](#) reached over 400 followers within a few weeks of its launch in late November. While Facebook primarily provides a platform for celebrating the successes of the agency, Twitter has proven to be an ideal vehicle to quickly disseminate breaking information related to road closures and other high-profile police incidents. The two platforms are linked, and also have the added capability of widespread publication when the posts are shared and “re-tweeted” by an ever growing circle of interested supporters.

A third social media platform, which is exceptional because it is hosted by a traditional news organization, is the PIO’s City Police Blotter on www.fredericksburg.com. While the daily crime reports are the most commonly published blogs on the Blotter, the forum also allows for publication of important [press releases](#), crime updates, [Good Samaritan stories](#), and [educational information](#) related to any law enforcement topic.

But a surprising benefit resulting from the City Police Blotter has been the ability to directly address criticism and public concern in a legitimate forum with a large and established readership. In December, that forum proved its value when the Chief and department were condemned for our actions surrounding the drowning of a dog. Read our response, published on December 11:

Since the terrible [story about the dog drowning](#) was published in the Free Lance-Star, the Police and Fire Departments have received numerous calls and emails critical of the decision to not attempt a rescue of the doomed animal. While newspaper stories are often constrained to limited details by the print space available, I am fortunate to have this platform to provide a comprehensive outline of the event.

On December 7 around 10:30 pm, the police received a call from a resident of Hazel Hill Apartments who reported that she could hear a dog barking in distress. Officer Lee Ridenour responded and searched the area around the apartment complex, but he was unable to locate the animal. Officer Ridenour then walked onto the Dixon Street bridge over Hazel Run, from which vantage point he could hear the dog yelping. He was able to determine that the dog was

located in a group of tents that had been pitched near the creek bottom. Now joined by Officer Julie Keene, the two officers made their way down a steep embankment beside the bridge until they reached the edge of the water. Hazel Run was well over its banks and moving swiftly. The officers could see the dog's head and its eyes reflecting in their flashlight beams.

Officers do not carry equipment that enables them to safely execute a water rescue. They had neither personal flotation devices nor lengths of rope to secure themselves to the trees surrounding the campsite. The water was moving fast and estimated at about knee depth, but the terrain under the water was unknown and full of unseen hazards. Officer Ridenour called for the Fire Department to respond.



This picture was taken from the Dixon Street bridge after the waters receded. On December 7, the water from Hazel Run completely covered all of the ground shown in this shot. The tents are located in the oval in the upper right quarter of the image.

When the Fire Department personnel arrived on the scene, the dog could no longer be seen or heard. The dangerous conditions were steadily worsening. It was completely dark and the water was still rising. While a rescue by boat may have seemed possible, the area is heavily covered by trees and littered with rocks, making maneuverability extremely difficult. Given the presumed decease of the dog by that point, the Fire commander decided that it was too dangerous to place the lives of his men at risk.

*Both the Police and Fire Departments operate under a system of command that is similar in structure to the military. Officers and firefighters do not freelance or fly solo. They take direction from their supervisors, who are highly trained professionals and proven in their experience. The greatest responsibility of any commander is to ensure the safety of his or her employees. While officers and firefighters are at risk every day simply due to the nature of their professions, **the assumption of risk that unnecessarily places other lives in danger is considered reckless rather than heroic.** Courage and audacity must be mitigated by actions that are rational and justifiable.*

Chief Nye said later: "I would rather be the Chief who is criticized for not rescuing that dog than be the Chief who must explain to someone why their loved one was injured or killed during an irresponsible rescue attempt."

While many have suggested that the actions of the officers and firefighters on Wednesday night indicated a lack of compassion for the poor dog, nothing could be further from the truth. Both departments are full of employees who are animal lovers and owners. Nobody was more deeply affected by the events of Wednesday night than the people who were there and witnessed the tragedy.

A surprising number of critics have suggested that the rescue of the dog should have been assigned the same priority as the rescue of a human being. We all operate under our own unique value systems, but I can only assume that such critics have never had to face the reality of sending a subordinate into life threatening circumstances nor have they ever had to justify the reasons behind such a decision. In public safety, the assumption of risk for an animal can not be expected to be the same as the assumption of risk for the sake of a human life.

Officer Ridenour demonstrated his commitment to seeking justice for the dog's death by making it his personal mission to discover the identity of the person(s) responsible. By conducting interviews and researching files of known homeless individuals who have set up campsites in the area, he discovered evidence that helped firmly establish the identity of the dog's owners. On Friday morning, after the flood waters had receded, he returned to the campsite and recovered the body of the dog which he found chained to a tree. Officer Ridenour located the owners and interviewed them at the Cold Weather Homeless Shelter in Stafford on Friday night and on Saturday, both owners were taken into custody. John Strother, 27, and Nachele Smith, 19, of no fixed address, were arrested and each charged with animal cruelty, animal abandonment, and failure to provide adequate care and treatment to a companion animal. Both Strother and Smith were incarcerated at the Rappahannock Regional Jail.

The dog's name was Junior.

Year in Review

January..... In January, the City of Fredericksburg's Department of Social Services (DSS) teamed up with the City Police Department for Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) training. The day-long training, a condensed version of the typical course of four weekly classes, was both fun and educational for the City staff that included representatives from Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, Foster Care, and Eligibility units. The training included instruction on situational awareness and techniques to escape from dangerous situations as well as hands-on, role playing scenarios. The scenarios allowed the students to practice the physical techniques to fight off an "attacker", played by police officers wearing protective padded suits. Although RAD training focuses on situations that could be encountered in day to day circumstances, the tools learned are also



useful in the work environment experienced by DSS employees. Each scenario was video-taped and reviewed afterwards by the entire class so that instructors could offer advice on how students could improve their behaviors and reactions to potentially dangerous situations. The RAD program is led by Lieutenant Sheila Jones.



February..... On February 5, Police Department employee Paul Dooley was one of the more than 3000 participants in the annual Polar Plunge Festival to benefit Virginia Special Olympics. With help from individuals and businesses in the Fredericksburg area, Paul succeeded in meeting his personal fundraising goal of \$1500. Paul's efforts contributed to the event's highest fundraising achievement in

the nineteen year history of the Polar Plunge, as the Festival in 2011 raised over one million dollars to support Special Olympics athletes and programs. Wearing his trademark Cookie Monster costume, Paul braved icy water temperatures and rough waves to demonstrate his incredible commitment to serving this cause.

March..... At the suggestion of patrol officers, in March the Police Department developed a victim and witness [brochure](#) which contains information about the various services and resources available to those affected by crime. Regardless of the offense encountered, the brochure contains the information that applies to the situation, so officers must only carry and distribute the one pamphlet to meet the needs of victims and witnesses. The brochure also has a place to record the incident report number and the reporting officer's name and contact information. Patrol officers now keep the brochures in their vehicles to dispense to the public as necessary.

April..... On April 30, the Police and Fire Departments participated in the DEA's National Drug Take-Back Initiative by providing safe, convenient, and staffed drop-off locations at Police Headquarters, Fire Station 1, and the Bragg Hill Family Life Center. The program allowed local residents to anonymously relinquish any unused prescription medications, thus ensuring that the drugs do not become accessible to children or for illegal consumption. During the

four hours of the initiative, over 340 pounds of prescription drugs were collected for subsequent disposal.

May..... On May 11, approximately 400 cyclists and support crew stopped at the Police Department on the second day of the Law Enforcement United's "Road to Hope". The tour passed under a huge American flag suspended over Cowan Blvd by the Fire Department's aerial truck before turning onto Todd Bahr Drive and into the PD parking lot.



The Law Enforcement United tour is one of the events that highlights National Police Week, and teams from all over the country participated in honor and remembrance of officers who have been killed in the line of duty. After three days and roughly 230 miles of hard riding, the tour ended at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C. The FPD Law Enforcement United team rides in honor of our own [fallen officers](#) who gave their lives in service to our community.

June..... The Police Department had a tremendous turnout of runners and supporters for the Law Enforcement Torch Run on the morning of June 10. Chief Nye accepted the torch from the Stafford County runners at the Falmouth Bridge and



led the contingent of approximately forty city participants southbound on Rt.1 to the Spotsylvania County line. Many employees ran after working all night on patrol and others came in on their day off to partake in this important fundraising activity. The Torch Run is an annual event that raises awareness and support for Virginia Special Olympics, for which Chief Nye served as the Region 2 Chair.

July..... Thanks to in-house instructors Communications Supervisor Angie Fines and Officer Gary Harvey, and Victor Podbielski from the Fire Department, all PD employees were trained in the latest Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques and use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in advance of the need for these skills in an emergency. The training was mandatory for all City employees and coincided with the placement of a new AED unit in a centrally located hallway at Police Headquarters.

August..... Sergeant Lloyd Holland and Officer Bill Hyer competed in the [2011 World Police and Fire Games](#) held August 25 – September 5 in New York City, and both came home with medals in their events. Officer Hyer won a Bronze Medal in his age group for racquetball and Sergeant Holland earned a Gold Medal in Powerlifting and a Silver Medal in Bodybuilding. The

Powerlifting event combined the weights achieved by each competitor in the bench press and dead lift. Sgt. Holland impressively bench-pressed 281 pounds and dead-lifted 441 pounds, for a combined total of 722 pounds to win this event in his age group. The World Police and Fire Games had over 17,000 competitors from around the world, and these two officers represented the Fredericksburg Police Department as awesome athletes and excellent role models for physical fitness.

September..... On September 30, Officer Jamie Walker set up a [truck checking station](#) at Dixon Park with participating law enforcement agencies that included the City of Fredericksburg Police, Stafford County Sheriff's Office, Stafford County Fire Marshal, Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, and special agents from the Department of Motor Vehicles. The officers targeted areas along the Blue and Gray Parkway, Route 2/17, and Kings Highway, funneling trucks into Dixon Park and the inspection station. A total of fifty-one trucks were screened for safety and eighteen were weighed, with four trucks found that were overweight. A large variety of trucks were inspected, from tankers to mobile cranes to municipal waste haulers.

Twenty-seven trucks were chosen to undergo detailed federal safety inspections. Fifteen of those trucks, including three carrying hazardous materials, were declared out of service under federal criteria due to either unsafe equipment or unqualified drivers. Nine citations were issued for safety or traffic violations.

October..... The Police Department participated in two events in October to support [Special Olympics Virginia](#). On October 20, City police officers and civilian employees joined with officers from Stafford Probation and Parole, the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office, and the Rappahannock Regional Jail to become impromptu wait staff at Joe's Crab Shack. Called Tip-A-Cop, the event encourages patrons of the sponsoring restaurant to donate to Special Olympics by rewarding the service provided by the temporary "help", and at the end of the night the participants had earned \$884 for this worthy cause.

On October 22, Chief David Nye and Sergeant Barry Taylor joined with other members of local law enforcement at the University of Mary Washington for a 5K race and one-mile fun run called “Run With The Law”. More than 350 UMW student athletes lined Campus Walk during the fun run to cheer and encourage the Special Olympics athletes along their route. The “Run With The Law” races raised over \$5000 for Special Olympics Virginia.

November..... As a supporting and adjunct vehicle to the agency’s Facebook page and other social media platforms, the Police Department launched a Twitter feed in November to expand the ability to share information and provide immediate updates on high profile incidents, such as this overturned truck which shut down traffic coming in to the City on Interstate 95. The department can be found on Twitter using hashtag #fredpolice, or check out this link: https://twitter.com/#!/FredPD_VA



Photo credit Kristina Brown, executive assistant to Chief Nye. Photo disseminated via Twitter.

December..... On December 15, Fredericksburg Police detectives used evidence from the social media site Facebook to [recover the figure](#) of the Baby Jesus which had been stolen from the Central Park shopping center two days earlier. A citizen provided vital information to police, which led to the identification of the primary suspect in the case. The suspect, a 25-year-old female from Spotsylvania County, had uploaded a picture of the stolen Christ child on her Facebook page, and the concerned citizen printed the image and the related comments before the Facebook post was removed. The citizen immediately turned over this evidence to the Fredericksburg Police Department. The subsequent investigation led to a home in Spotsylvania County, where the Baby Jesus was found. The theft and recovery of the figure

received widespread media [coverage](#).



Pat Collins from NBC4 interviews the PIO

Community Partnerships

Citizen's Academy - In 2010, the Police Department hosted its inaugural Citizen's Police Academy and the success of that program led to a repeat of the venture in 2011. For ten weeks in the first quarter of the year, eighteen area residents attended weekly classes that highlighted the core functions of the department as well as high-profile investigations. The curriculum included Patrol Officer basics, the 911 Communications Center, a hands-on class describing the tactics and equipment of the Special Equipment and Tactical Team and the Crisis Negotiating Team, and case critiques outlining the line-of-duty death of Officer Todd Bahr and the abduction and homicide of local resident Yong Zhang. The course concluded with a simulated "Shoot-Don't Shoot" scenario and a small graduation ceremony.



Citizen's Academy graduation 2011

UMW Students Volunteer as Translators - Since the Fall semester of the 2010-11 school year, students from the University of Mary Washington have been [providing volunteer hours](#) with the Police Department as Spanish translators. In 2011, eight UMW students volunteered 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 facilitated interviews with Spanish-speaking suspects and crime witnesses who were encountered during an officer's patrol shift. The continuing 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. One of the original student translators, Sara Lombrana, was hired at the end of 2011 to become a police officer.

Police Department Hosts Forum for Downtown Merchants – On August 30, business owners from the downtown district were [invited to attend an open forum](#) at the Police Department to discuss criminal and nuisance activity that specifically impacts the downtown business community. The topics included:

- State laws and City ordinances used to address the criminal and nuisance violations commonly encountered in the downtown.
- Current efforts aimed at reducing criminal and nuisance violations in the downtown.
- Strategies downtown businesses can employ to deter criminal and nuisance behavior.
- Comments, questions, and recommendations from the downtown business persons.

The forum was led by officers who are assigned to the downtown district and have experience in managing the particular concerns of the neighborhood. A total of eighteen individuals from the downtown area attended the forum, as well as two representatives from local media.

New Community Policing Assignments – In August, Officer Ken Camp was newly appointed as the downtown Community Police Officer (CPO), taking over from Officer Ron Swaney who was assigned as the CPO in charge of Crime Prevention and troubleshooting throughout the City. Officer Paul Chewning took Officer Camp's place as one of the two CPOs deployed in the Fall Hill Avenue corridor. Officer Camp's downtown beat was also expanded

to include the motels and some other active areas in the Princess Anne Street corridor.

Officer Swaney primarily focused on developing crime prevention initiatives, but he was also be given special assignments to address localized problems as they arose. Among other tasks, his duties included:

- Acting as single point of contact for homeless issues;
- Acting as single point of contact for issues stemming from bars, coordinating *Managing the Nightlife*, and the annual DUI awareness campaign;
- Coordinating the *Minding the Store* seminars and developing other crime prevention strategies for retail merchants to reduce shoplifting, credit card fraud, check fraud, etc;
- Developing and coordinating training seminars for landlords and property managers to reduce criminal and nuisance activity at rental properties.



Employee Achievements

Police Academy Spring Graduation - The Law Enforcement Basic class held its Spring graduation ceremony at the University of Mary Washington's Dodd Auditorium on May 26, and a new Police Department employee, Officer Corey Dobson, was recognized during the ceremony for his outstanding achievements:



- Top Skills Achievement- Corey took second place with a score of 93.505% (just .075% from first place). This award is based on the average raw scores for Driving, Firearms and Defensive Tactics.
- Top Overall Achievement- Corey took second place with a score of 94.986% (just 1.02% from first place). This award is tabulated from the academic scores (40%), the skill scores (40%) and the student notebook (20%) that is graded at the end of the 17-week course.
- Charles E. Murray Jr. Top Performance Award - This award has been in existence since 1991 to honor the memory of Sgt. Charles E. Murray Jr. of the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office, who died in the line of duty on July 9, 1990. Sgt. Murray was a regular instructor at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy and exemplified the model law enforcement officer. Recipients of this award are decided by votes from Academy staff, instructors, and from fellow classmates. Recipients of this award must continually demonstrate the following qualities: leadership ability, motivation, positive attitude, professionalism and overall sincere commitment to the profession. Corey was selected as the recipient of this honor.



Police Academy Fall Graduation - On December 13, the Police Department's latest staff addition for 2011, Officer Ryan Merrell, graduated from the Officer Basic class at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. Officer Merrell distinguished himself by being awarded first place in his class for outstanding physical fitness.

Detective Achieves Advanced Certification - In April, Detective Mark Purcell, the Police Department's polygraph examiner, was awarded a Certificate of Advanced and Specialized Training from the American Polygraph Association. While all polygraph examiners in Virginia are required to have a license that attests to the individual's proficiency in the field, the Advanced Certificate is conferred on those who have received a minimum of 40 hours of additional training and testing in a particular area of expertise. Detective Purcell's specialty relates to the interview and examination techniques that are vital to the investigation of sex offenders. (Detective Purcell was promoted to Sergeant in October 2011.)



New Polygraph Examiner - On November 28, Sergeant Patrick Reed graduated from the Maryland Institute of Criminal Justice (MICJ) Polygraph School after spending eight weeks in the intensive training program. The MICJ course is accredited by the American Polygraph National Association and consists of 320 classroom hours and a two-week independent study. Sergeant Reed continues his training by

interning under certified examiner Sergeant Mark Purcell for six to nine months. After his required internship, Sergeant Reed will be able to apply to test for his polygraph license through the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

National LawFit Challenge – On October 15, Sergeant Lloyd Holland and Officer Alexandra Cameron competed in the [Tenth Annual National LawFit Challenge](#) held at George Mason University in Fairfax. Sergeant Holland and Officer Cameron finished third out of ten in the mixed pairs team event, a feat made more impressive by Officer Cameron’s enrollment and participation in the Criminal Justice Academy SWAT school on October 13 and 14. The SWAT school, which ran through October 21, is notorious for its rigorous physical demands and high rate of attrition.



Sergeant Holland also led the department members in their voluntary involvement with in-house LawFit assessments, which tested the participants in skills that directly relate to patrol and apprehension techniques. The purpose of the assessments is to encourage a habit of physical fitness, thus leading to safety in the field and overall improved health for all employees.



Crime Analysis

CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT 2011			
PART I CRIMES			
PART 1 OFFENSES	Jan 1-Dec 31 2010	Jan 1-Dec 31 2011	COMPARISON
Murder and Non-negligent Homicide Count by # of Victims	0	1	+1
Forcible Rape Count by # of Victims	7	3	-4
Robbery	19	24	+5
Aggravated Assault *Count by # of Victims	71	74	+3
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	119	102	-17
Larceny	939	938	-1
Motor Vehicle Theft	31	32	+1
TOTAL YTD	1186	1174	-12

The statistical chart represents the number of reported major crimes in calendar years 2010 and 2011. 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.

The Fredericksburg Police Department tracks and collects crime information under the format of the [National Incident Based Reporting System](#) (NIBRS), which standardizes the crime data captured for each single incident and arrest within twenty-two offense categories.

Some of the major benefits derived from the NIBRS 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 NIBRS system requires that extensive data be reported for *each crime* occurring during a particular incident. The NIBRS system also defines each specific crime to ensure consistency and accuracy of the data.

The crime information is reported 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](#).

Homicide

The willful killing of one human being by another

After 28 months without a homicide in Fredericksburg, that positive trend changed in the final quarter of 2011. [Officers responded](#) to the 1900 block of Charles Street at 11:20 p.m. on October 11 for reports of a loud disturbance in the street. Police arrived within minutes and found a male subject collapsed next to a parked car. The victim had suffered multiple stab wounds and was pronounced dead on the scene. The victim was identified as Jermaine Samuel, 33, whose last known address was the Colonial Motel in Fredericksburg.

Multiple law enforcement officers from Fredericksburg and surrounding jurisdictions and troopers from the Virginia State Police responded to the area to search for the suspect, secure the crime scene, and interview witnesses. Witnesses were able to provide a description of the assailant, and approximately ten minutes after the first 911 call, a young male matching the suspect description was located and detained in the Fredericksburg Shopping Center in the 500 block of Jefferson Davis Highway. With assistance from a

Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office K9 unit, a weapon was recovered early the next morning near the crime scene.

Justin Brunell, 20, of Fredericksburg was subsequently arrested and charged with first degree murder, and incarcerated at the Rappahannock Regional Jail under no bond. The case was scheduled to go to jury trial on May 8, 2012.

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

The Police Department noted a significant decrease in the number of rapes and/or attempted rapes that occurred during 2011. Two of the three cases were closed with the arrest of the offenders, and one case remains open with a known suspect as the investigation continues. In all three cases, the victims and offenders were known to each other through common circumstances.

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 increased in 2011 to a total of 24, and of those cases two involved the robbery of a business. On August 27, [three subjects committed robbery](#) at the Sheetz on Fall Hill Avenue, and one fleeing suspect also carjacked a victim in the parking lot. About a week later, [two local teenagers were arrested](#) and charged with the crime, but the [third suspect](#) remains unidentified.

On December 22, the [First Citizen's Bank was robbed](#) by a male subject who was able to flee the scene on foot. The suspect in this case has not yet been apprehended.

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

While the number of victims who reported aggravated assaults increased slightly from 2010 to 2011, the number of *incidents* actually decreased, from 65 reported incidents in 2010 to 60 reported incidents in 2011. (Per the IBR system, aggravated assaults are counted by number of victims.)

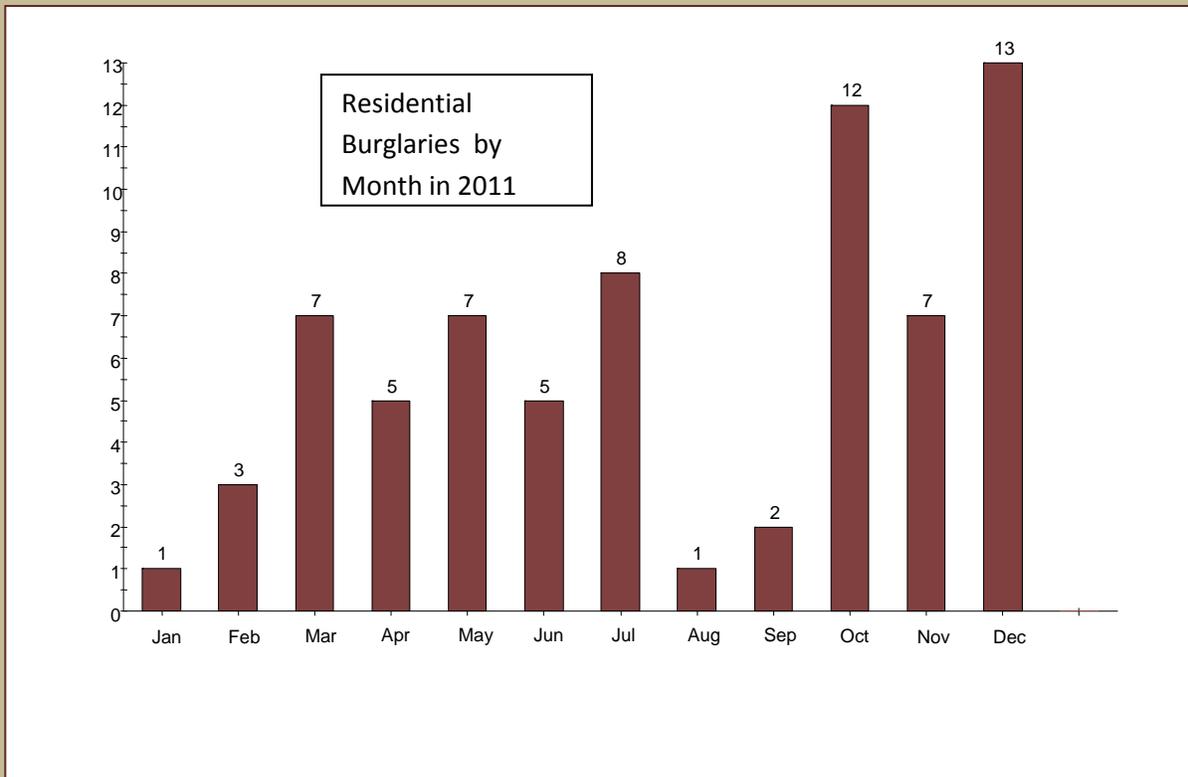
Twenty percent of the reported aggravated assaults in 2011 occurred during incidents of domestic violence, underscoring the importance of the Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit. The DVU is made up of a detective who specializes in domestic violence cases and a civilian victim's advocate. All cases of domestic violence are referred to the DVU for follow-up to ensure that victims are aware of their rights and are put in contact with local services that provide assistance with the steps in prosecution, family education, and counseling.

Burglary

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

While in 2010 the City saw an increase in burglaries, particularly to commercial establishments, in 2011 the total number of reported burglaries (102) returned to near the number reported in 2009 (98). Roughly 70% of the burglary cases reported in 2011 were residential burglaries, compared to 55% residential burglaries in 2010.

There were two spikes in residential burglary cases in the final quarter of the year, and the apprehension of two unrelated serial offenders has since closed the majority of those cases.



Larceny

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

The offense of larceny remains the most prevalent type of crime reported in Fredericksburg and throughout the nation, and the number of cases locally showed virtually no change compared to last year.

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 reported cases of motor vehicle theft increased by one case in 2011. One interesting trend noted was that the number of motorcycles/mopeds stolen

increased from 12.9% of the total number reported in 2010 to 28% of the 32 vehicles reported stolen in 2011.

While Fredericksburg's overall decrease in crime is similar to the reduction evidenced in [national statistics](#), more important is the rate at which crimes are solved. The Fredericksburg Police Department's rate of solving crimes in 2011 was higher in every category than the most recent national average calculations.

PART 1 CRIMES CLEARANCE	FPD	USA
CRIME		
MURDER	1	
Clearance %	100%	64.80%
RAPE	3	
Clearance %	66%	40.30%
ROBBERY	24	
Clearance %	33%	28.20%
AGGR. ASSAULT	74	
Clearance %	* 80%	56.40%
BURGLARY	102	
Clearance %	29%	12.40%
LARCENY	938	
Clearance %	38%	21.10%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	32	
Clearance %	25%	11.80%

* While aggravated assaults are counted by number of victims, the clearance rate is determined by percentage of incidents cleared.

Department Awards

The Fredericksburg Police Department believes strongly that the dedicated and professional employees who daily serve the public should be recognized for exceptional efforts that go beyond the scope of their normal duties. Every quarter, members of the department are nominated and selected by their peers to receive awards, and at the end of the year the Awards Committee selects an officer, a civilian employee, and an auxiliary officer as Employees of the Year. In addition, members of other agencies and local citizens may be recognized by department staff in honor of their valuable support and partnership in helping us accomplish our mission.

Officer of the Year – Officer Dave Reilly



Officer Reilly received a Chief's Citation of Professional Recognition during the 2nd Quarter and a Certificate of Commendation for the 4th quarter for responding to 1,830 events during the past year, 823 of which were self-initiated. He was also the primary unit on 1,003 events. Officer Reilly consistently provides direction and training to his co-workers in drug interdiction skills and serves as an example for other officers through proactive policing by engaging suspicious circumstances and people. He is typically among those who have the highest number of monthly police actions. Due to the "K9 Power Shift", established in March 2011, Squads 3 and 5 doubled the number of their drug arrests in the first six months of 2011 as compared to the first six months of 2010. In addition to his normal duties, Officer Reilly frequently volunteered to work on the opposite shift to offset their short staffing. Officer Reilly is a member of SETT and the firearms training unit and his dedication to duty and this department is unsurpassed. (Officer Reilly was promoted to Sergeant in March 2012.)

Employee of the Year/Employee of the Second Quarter – Natatia Bledsoe

Natatia was awarded the Employee of the Year of the 2nd Quarter/Employee of the Year for completing a comprehensive and well-written Annual Report as well as coordinating all aspects of the second Citizen’s Academy. Ms. Bledsoe handled several press inquiries for the City’s Fire Department and volunteered to work on a committee with the Assistant City Manager to review results of a survey that dealt with quality of life issues in Fredericksburg and citizen satisfaction with city services. Natatia also spent six weeks supervising and mentoring an intern on a project that researched the effects of the City’s homeless population on the resources of the Police Department, court system and the jail. During the summer, the City experienced three unusual events: an earthquake, microburst and a hurricane that all occurred within a few days. During all of these incidents, Natatia was able to professionally and quickly share information to the citizens through her regular list of wide contacts and through the use of social media. In early December, Natatia defended the actions of officers and the Fire Department on her [web log](#) by fully explaining the details surrounding the drowning of dog that had been left chained to a tree. Additionally, Natatia handled all of the department’s Freedom of Information Act requests throughout the year.



Auxiliary Officer of the Year – Peter Nguyen

Auxiliary Officer Nguyen has been a volunteer patrol officer since 1993 and regularly donates his time to assist with special events such as the 4th of July Heritage Festival and the City’s annual Christmas Parade. He is also very generous in augmenting staff levels on the street when needed. The Auxiliary Officer program is a vital part of the Police Department’s efforts in providing valuable service to the citizens of Fredericksburg. All

Auxiliary Officers are sworn in and receive the same training as career officers.



Unseen heroes - Communications Officers in the 911 Center handle routine calls and emergencies around the clock and keep track of Police, Fire, and EMS

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