



***Fredericksburg Police  
Department***

***Annual Report 2012***

## *Chief's Message*

*The year 2012 was highlighted by our continuing demonstrated pursuit of excellence. From a successful reaccreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, to receiving the very prestigious Communication Achievement Award from the Virginia Municipal League, the Fredericksburg Police Department continues to gain outside recognition for its very high level of performance. In addition, we continue to receive favorable feedback from the members of the community we serve as measured by results in surveys as well as letters and emails sent to me and my staff.*

*But the true measure of our strength and character as an agency depends upon the individuals who represent us daily in our interactions with the community. The men and women of the Fredericksburg Police Department exemplify our agency's dedication to providing outstanding law enforcement service to the public, and the recognition of the merits and achievements of these individuals is contained within these pages.*



*Our goal is to always be reaching toward a standard of policing that is the most progressive, professional, and proficient level of skill that can be acquired.*

*Inside our department, we have reinforced that commitment to excellence by designing a Career Development Program, fully implementing a new Training Plan, and creating a new Peer Support Team. We strive to provide our employees with the support and tools they need to be successful.*

*There were nine promotions in 2012 including two captains and the addition of a non-sworn professional manager to lead our E-911 center as our department recognizes and rewards our future leaders.*

*I look forward to blending our personnel strengths with new technologies in 2013 and continuing to maintain the high level of service provided by my dedicated staff of sworn and civilian employees to the residents and visitors of the City of Fredericksburg.*

*Chief David W. Nye*

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FPD employees in the 2012 Torch Run for Special Olympics

## *Dispatchers Save Lives*

National Public Safety Telecommunications Week is celebrated in April of every year. The week is a chance for all of us in Public Safety to shower appreciation on our co-workers who are so often forgotten: 911 Dispatchers.



Inside a secure room with tiny windows and no contact with the public except through the telephone, the Communications Officers of the Fredericksburg Police Department are on duty every day of the week, 24 hours per day. On weekends and holidays when most of us are enjoying our families or having fun with friends, they are staffing the phones and radios to make sure that emergency services are provided around the clock to the citizens in our City.

Dispatchers provide the lifeline between the people who need assistance and the emergency responders who arrive draped in all the glory of siren-equipped vehicles and badges of authority. Make no mistake, the City's Police, Fire, and EMS providers are most assuredly the best of the best, but usually the very first sign of rescue for a panicked victim is the calming voice of a dispatcher saying: "911, where is your emergency?"

Because no matter who you are or where you are, and no matter the time of day or night and even on Christmas, the dispatcher on the other end of that line will get you help.

Author Michael Perry said it best, "Dispatchers have a tough gig. They function as interlocutor between two parties occupying various states of panic. They sort it out the best they can. It's fascinating to think of them wherever they are, with their phone, their microphone, their maps, playing such a critical role in a drama where they never meet the other players. The dispatcher is hip-deep and detached, all at once. Think of a football coach locked in an office during the game, calling plays and relaying them to the quarterback based on reports given to him by a fan on a cell phone."

In addition to answering the phones (which never stop ringing) and relaying information on the radio to first responders in the field, the list of responsibilities assigned to a dispatcher is simply enormous.

They provide emergency medical pre-arrival instructions to callers reporting illness or injury.

They are charged with keeping track of every on-duty police officer and every piece of fire and EMS apparatus available to respond in an emergency. They log, track, and update all criminal warrants and emergency protective orders maintained in our database, and they also enter the information for all stolen items and wanted persons in a national database, which requires a monthly audit to ensure accuracy.

They call wreckers for accidents, maintain communication with surrounding jurisdictions, and monitor the security cameras throughout our building.

They serve on committees and special teams such as Crisis Negotiating and Peer Support, and they volunteer their time with fundraising for Special Olympics and Law Enforcement United.

They track lost and found pets and try to reunite them with their owners before the otherwise obligatory trip to the pound. They arrange for injured wildlife to be connected with trained rehabilitators.

When needed, they operate as impromptu couples counselors to callers waiting for police arrival, they give parenting advice, and they are on speed dial for a few of our residents who are mentally ill.

They listen. They hear parents screaming when a baby stops breathing and the anguish of a spouse who finds a loved one dead. They hear the voices of the battered and bruised, the frightened, the angry, and they respond with help and with hope.

They are underappreciated, yet indispensable.

They have children, husbands, and personal lives which cannot help but be affected by the small and large tragedies they experience daily through their work.

None of us in Public Safety could do our jobs without them, and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.



E-911 dispatchers are the lifeline to get help to emergencies like these every day

## *The Year in Review*

**January** - On January 9, Fredericksburg Police detectives arrested serial burglar Jonathan Matthew Shepherd after conducting surveillance on a vacant property where the suspect was known to have secured his belongings. Following Shepherd's apprehension, investigators linked the career offender to more than twenty-five crimes, using forensic evidence that included fingerprints, foot impressions, and DNA. The crime spree started in September 2011 and involved the burglarizing of homes in College Heights, College Terrace, and the neighborhoods surrounding Maury Stadium. The [Automated Fingerprint Identification System \(AFIS\)](#) also connected Shepherd back to a series of burglaries that occurred over the Thanksgiving weekend in 2010.

**February** – The members of the newly formed Peer Support Team were chosen from those employees, current and retired, who had volunteered to take on this responsibility to assist their coworkers during times of crisis. The team members receive specialized training and oversight from mental health professionals to enable them to provide emotional and tangible support to our colleagues who may be suffering unusual stress from personal or professional adversities.

**March** - On March 6, the Police Department hosted another well attended *Managing the Nightlife* seminar, which is a bi-annual training program that addresses issues that are of particular concern to businesses that serve alcohol. In attendance were employees of five nightspot establishments. With the goal of reducing arrests and the need for police services at these businesses, the officers leading the program presented information on the following topics:

- Fire Codes and occupancy limits
- ABC regulations and State alcohol laws
- Fake IDs and tips for dealing with intoxicated people
- Legal issues and liability

**April** - On April 13, Detective Johnny Wright, an eleven-year veteran of the Police Department, graduated from the [Virginia Forensic Science Academy](#) in Richmond. The biannual course is ten weeks long and requires candidates to go through a highly competitive selection process, offering only twelve slots in the class each session. The course includes instruction in crime scene investigation and photography, arson evidence, toxicology, forensic biology, latent print evidence, trace evidence, tool marks, firearms evidence and bullet trajectory, crime scene sketching, evidence law, questioned documents, drug recognition, impression evidence, and criminal investigative analysis.

**May** - In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation that declared May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as [National Police Week](#). Police Week is intended to pay tribute to all law enforcement

officers across the country who have died in the line of duty. The Police Department participated in many activities in May to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of those who serve our communities and to welcome our newest officers



taking their oath of honor. On May 11, riders from the LEU Bike Tour stopped at Police Headquarters for a brief refuel and to pay their respects at the memorial for the City's four fallen officers. The stop in Fredericksburg occurred during the second leg of the three-day tour from Chesapeake, Virginia to Washington D.C. In 2012, the LEU Tour collected over \$225,000 to donate to the [Concerns of Police Survivors](#) and the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#).

**June** – On June 27, twin brothers [Joshua and Isaac Franklin](#), 18 years old, were arrested and charged with multiple counts of burglary and larceny for their involvement in a crime spree that victimized a number of city businesses and residents. The Franklins were the leaders of a group of young men who worked together to break into cars throughout neighborhoods in Fredericksburg and commit nighttime burglaries to steal cash and electronic equipment. The Franklin cases were solved with fingerprint identification and other identifying evidence recovered from one of the crime scenes. The brothers were convicted and each sentenced to five years in jail.

**July** - On July 11-13, nineteen officers from eight different law enforcement agencies participated in tactical rappel training hosted by the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. The course was taught by Fredericksburg Police Lieutenant William Hallam. The first two days of the program were conducted in the training room at police headquarters and on the rappel tower located behind the building. On the third day of instruction, the students tested their skills by rappelling down the outside walls and interior stairwells of the downtown parking garage. Some of the training was [recorded on video](#) and published on [fredericksburg.com](#).



**August** – The department successfully completed its first process of *reaccreditation* in August, undergoing an intensive review and audit from the [Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies](#). Our agency achieved national accreditation for the first time in 2009 and must complete a CALEA review every three years in order to maintain this prestigious

designation. One of the benefits of accreditation is to foster greater accountability within the agency. CALEA standards give the Chief a proven management system of written directives, sound training, clearly defined lines of authority, and routine reports that support decision-making and resource allocation. Another important advantage is the increase in community advocacy. Accreditation embodies the precepts of community-oriented policing and creates a forum in which law enforcement agencies and citizens work together to prevent and control challenges confronting law enforcement and provides clear direction about community expectations.



**September** - On September 29, the Police and Fire Departments once again participated in the [Drug Enforcement Administration's initiative](#) to collect unused, unwanted, and expired prescription drugs from members of the public. The collection center at the Fire Department took in 302 pounds of prescription medication and officers staffing the collection center at the Police

Department recorded 75 pounds of surrendered pills that were packaged for disposal and safely removed from the hands of potential abusers.

**October** - The city's I.T department installed new crime analysis software called CA Plus on desktop computers in Police Headquarters and on mobile data terminals mounted in the patrol cars. The CA Plus software allows the department's Crime Analyst to prepare detailed reports of statistics and crime trends, and also assists patrol officers in developing targeted patrol strategies and detectives in cultivating investigative leads.

**November** - On Saturday, November 2, the members of the Law Enforcement United bike team held a yard sale at Police Headquarters to benefit the [Concerns of Police Survivors](#) and the [Officer Down Memorial Page](#). All of the items offered for sale were donated by the families and friends of the Fredericksburg Police and Sheriff's Departments. The yard sale garnered over \$500 for these worthy causes. Also in November, the Community Police Officers hosted two educational forums to assist business owners and managers with crime prevention. Retail merchants were invited to attend a seminar called *Minding the Store* where they were provided information on strategies to reduce shoplifting, avert criminal activity, and identify credit card and check fraud. The crime prevention forums were led by officers who are assigned to the downtown district and have experience in addressing the unique issues facing nightclub and retail managers.

**December** - As a demonstration of our continued partnership with the National Housing Trust/Hazel Hill Apartment management, the department received a \$10,000 donation from NHT in December to assist with community policing initiatives. The donation was earmarked for the purchase of a new patrol canine and two patrol bicycles.

## *Spotlight on Special Teams*

The Police Department maintains two special teams that are trained in high risk apprehensions, the Special Equipment and Tactical Team (SETT) and the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT). The SETT team is comprised of officers who are specially trained and qualified in the use of tactical weapons and entry equipment. Officers on SETT are competitively selected and participate in scenario training twice every month. All SETT duties are undertaken in addition to the officers' primary responsibilities. The primary mission of SETT is to execute safe entry into buildings for drug raids, during high-risk warrant service, or in the support of any operation that includes the anticipation of violence. SETT also responds to hostage or barricade situations in conjunction with the Crisis Negotiation Team.

The Crisis Negotiation Team specializes in using proven negotiation tactics to confront individuals in stronghold or barricade positions, whether or not they hold hostages. A stronghold/barricade situation is generally classified as any instance where an individual is armed with a weapon and threatening his own life and/or the lives of others and where it is determined that approaching the subject physically would present an undue danger to officers as well as to the citizens and suspect involved. The CNT trains regularly with the SETT using role players and real-life scenarios. During actual crisis events, both teams deploy and work in unison under a single command in order to exact the most peaceful resolution possible for all parties involved.



In March 2012, the members of these teams, along with on-duty patrol officers and detectives, joined together to successfully resolve a genuine high risk situation when a suspect wanted for escaping from a work release program and robbing a bank in Pennsylvania was taken into custody after barricading himself inside a room at the Thomas Jefferson Motel on Augustine Avenue.

Shortly after 12 p.m. on March 15, 2012, the Fredericksburg Police Department received information from detectives in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania that a subject wanted for escape from work release was believed to be in the vicinity of the bus station at 1400 Jefferson Davis Hwy. The Pennsylvania detectives emailed a photo and other information concerning the 25-year-old fugitive, Michael Hamilton, to detectives in Fredericksburg, and flyers displaying that information were shown to employees of businesses in the area.

At 2:15 pm, the clerk of the Thomas Jefferson Motel at 1901 Augustine Avenue called police to report that a man matching the image on the flyer had just checked in to one of the motel rooms. Officers responded and confirmed that Hamilton was in the room, then called out the Special Equipment and Tactical Team and the Crisis Negotiation Team when it became apparent that Hamilton would not immediately surrender.



Photo credit Dan Telvock

Negotiators quickly established contact with Hamilton by phone and gave him instructions on how to safely surrender to police.



Photo credit Dan Telvock

The Stafford County Sheriff's Office also assisted the operation by providing their armored vehicle for protective cover and tactical support. A secure perimeter was maintained

throughout the incident, traffic was diverted from the vicinity, and Hamilton was contained within the confines of the motel room at all times until he walked out of the room and gave himself up to the waiting SETT members at 4:25 pm. Hamilton was unarmed.

Hamilton was immediately taken to Police Headquarters for questioning and approximately ten minutes after arriving, he began to show an altered level of consciousness. Hamilton was transported to Mary Washington Hospital by ambulance, where he underwent treatment for a presumed heroin overdose.

Hamilton was a fugitive from Pennsylvania, on charges of escape from Montgomery County, PA on March 9, 2012 and multiple charges related to a bank robbery that occurred in Radnor Township, PA on March 13, 2012. Following this safe and successful apprehension, he was extradited back to Pennsylvania to face his charges.



Photo credit Dan Telvock

## *Crime Analysis*

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.

	2010	2011	2012	COMPARISON 2011/2012
<b>MURDER AND NON-NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE*</b>	0	1	2	+1
<b>FORCIBLE RAPE*</b>	7	3	1	-2
<b>ROBBERY</b>	19	24	19	-5
<b>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT*</b>	71	74	77	+3
<b>BURGLARY/BREAKING &amp; ENTERING</b>	119	102	88	-14
<b>LARCENY</b>	939	948	922	-26
<b>MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT</b>	31	32	20	-12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1186</b>	<b>1184</b>	<b>1129</b>	<b>-55</b>

\*count by number of victims

The statistical chart represents the number of reported major crimes in calendar years 2010, 2011 and 2012. 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.

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

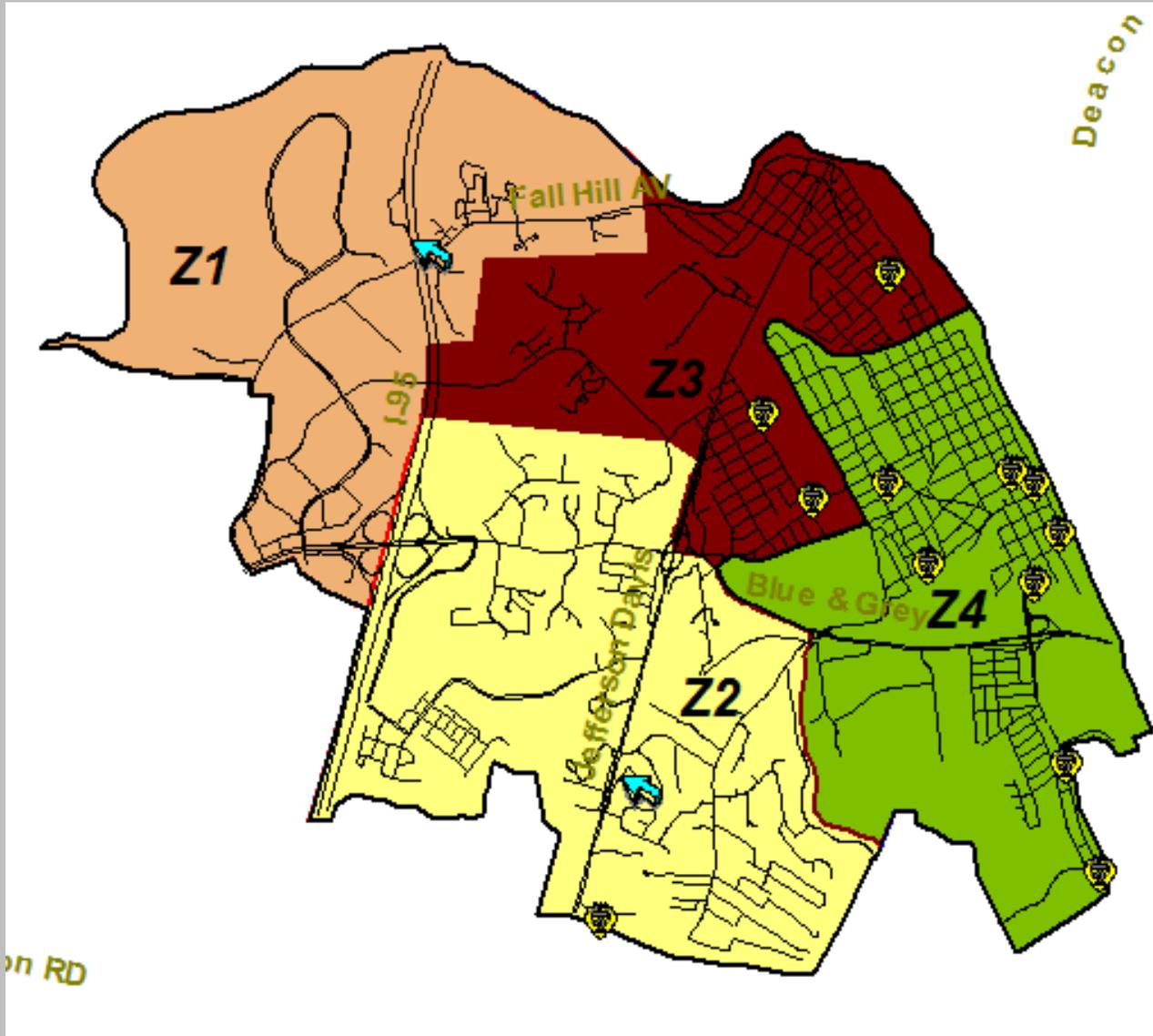
incident. The NIBRS system also defines each specific crime to ensure consistency and accuracy of the data.

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](#).

Preliminary figures for 2012 indicate that, as a whole, law enforcement agencies throughout the nation reported an *increase* of 1.9 percent in the number of reported violent crimes for the first six months of 2012 when compared with figures reported for the same time in 2011. The violent crime category includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The number of property crimes in the United States from January to June of 2012 increased 1.5 percent when compared with data from the same time period in 2011. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

In Fredericksburg, the violent crime rate increased slightly in 2011 then decreased again in 2012 to approximately the same rate as in 2010. Property crime in Fredericksburg has been declining since 2010, with 2012 being at the lowest rate for the last three years.

The city is divided into zones or “beats” for the purpose of patrol assignments and to allow the tracking of criminal activity and crime trends to particular areas within our jurisdiction. Refer to the below map for designated zones.



## Homicide

*The willful killing of one human being by another*

The Fredericksburg Police Department investigated two homicides that occurred in 2012. Both of these homicides occurred in Zone 1. In the first case, officers responded to the 300 block of Brock Square in the Central Park Townhomes around 3:30 a.m. on April 7. The victim's friend, who also lived in the neighborhood, called 911 when he discovered the 28-year-old man lying bleeding and apparently deceased inside a townhouse. The victim had been shot in the head.

The victim was identified as a resident of the home, Nathaniel Dywayne Henderson. No other occupants were found in the house when police arrived.

Just after 3 p.m. on April 7, the homicide suspect was taken into custody in the 1000 block of Wicklow Drive. Tyrone Tomek Johnson, 35, of Fredericksburg was charged with first degree homicide and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony and was incarcerated at the Rappahannock Regional Jail.

Johnson and the victim were acquaintances, and the shooting reportedly occurred during a get-together of friends at the victim's home on Brock Square. According to witness accounts, a dispute broke out between Johnson and Henderson just prior to the fatal shooting.

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At 10:13 a.m. on July 25, the Fredericksburg Police Department received a report on 911 from a caller who stated that a man located in a homeless camp behind the Central Park Townhomes appeared to be dead. Police officers and personnel from the Fire Department searched the area and located the body of a deceased male inside a tent in a heavily wooded area at the end of Roffman Road.

Due to obvious signs of trauma to the body, the case was immediately investigated as a homicide. The victim, Armando Escobar, 43, of no fixed address, was known to reside in and around the Bragg Hill corridor. This case

was closed with the arrest of Juan Zarco, who was located in Atlanta, Georgia and was turned over to the authority of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

## **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*

One rape was reported in 2012. The victim was a juvenile and the offender was a family member. The case was closed by arrest and recently ended with the offender's conviction.

## **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*

Nineteen robberies were reported in 2012. Nine of the cases involved the use of a firearm and two involved the use of a knife or other cutting instrument as the weapon used. There was one bank robbery in 2012 at the First Citizens Bank on Plank Road; that case is currently suspended until further leads are discovered.

Most of the robberies occurred in Zone 3 and Zone 1 of the city.

## **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*

There were 68 reports of aggravated assault in 2012 with 77 victims. The majority of aggravated assaults occurred in Zone 4. Seventeen of the total

cases were related to domestic violence. In 27% of the non-domestic related incidents, the offender was an acquaintance of the victim.

Seven of the aggravated assault cases specifically were in the offense category of brandishing a firearm and two involved the throwing of an object at occupied vehicles.

In eleven of the aggravated assaults a handgun or another type of firearm was used during the assault and in one notable incident the weapon used was an explosive device. This was the first time in recent history that explosives have been used as a weapon in the city.

At approximately 4 a.m. on October 30, the Police and Fire Departments responded to a reported explosion inside a home in the 3100 block of Normandy Avenue. The occupant of the house, an adult female, was not injured and evacuated the home safely along with her dog. Fire personnel found smoke inside the house and damage to the interior of the single story residence.

The investigation determined that a homemade incendiary device was placed or thrown inside the residence and subsequently detonated.

A bomb dog from the Virginia State Police responded to the crime scene and no additional devices were located. This case was immediately connected to similar crimes that occurred in Stafford County on the same day, and a Stafford resident by the name of Laurence Alan Stewart was quickly [developed as a suspect](#). On November 1, Stewart was arrested in Montana following a [dramatic chase](#) during which he threw pipe bombs at pursuing law enforcement officers. Stewart is currently incarcerated and facing federal and local charges.

## **Burglary**

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

In 2012, burglaries were at their lowest level since 2009.

There were 48 residential burglaries and 40 commercial burglaries in the past year. Most of the commercial burglaries occurred in Zone 3, while the residential incidents were concentrated in Zone 4. In the majority of cases the point of entry was the front door, while in three of the residential burglaries the attached garage door was the point of entry.

Eighteen of the burglaries were closed by arrest.

## Larceny

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

As always, the general category of larceny comprises the largest number of crimes in Fredericksburg. Of the specific larceny types, shoplifting leads the list of reported crimes followed by thefts from motor vehicles.

<b>LARCENY BY TYPE</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
<b>LARCENY-SHOPLIFTING</b>	316	309
<b>LARCENY-ALL OTHER LARCENY</b>	247	218
<b>LARCENY-THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE</b>	170	171
<b>LARCENY-THEFT FROM BUILDING</b>	165	157
<b>LARCENY - THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS/ACCESSORIES</b>	50	62
<b>LARCENY-THEFT FROM COIN-OPERATED MACHINE OR DEVICE</b>	0	3
<b>LARCENY - PURSE SNATCHING</b>	0	1
<b>LARCENY - POCKET PICKING</b>	0	1
<b>Total</b>	948	922

## 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*

There were 20 motor vehicles stolen in 2012; five of those were motorcycles or mopeds. By IBR standards, the attempted theft of a motor vehicle is included in the total number.

Most of the stolen vehicles were parked in front of residences on the street, while three were stolen from parking spaces in front of businesses and one moped from the VRE lot. Eleven of the stolen vehicles have been recovered.



The rate at which crimes are solved in Fredericksburg remains very high, especially as compared with national statistics (statistics for national rates not yet available for 2012).

<b>CLEARANCE RATES</b>	<b>FPD 2011</b>	<b>FPD 2012</b>	<b>USA 2011</b>
<b>HOMICIDE</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>64.8%</b>
<b>RAPE</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>40.3%</b>
<b>ROBBERY</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>36.8%</b>	<b>28.2%</b>
<b>AGGR. ASSAULT</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>70.5%</b>	<b>56.4%</b>
<b>BURGLARY</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26.1%</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
<b>LARCENY</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
<b>VEHICLE THEFT</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>11.8%</b>

## Promotions

Chief Nye and City Manager Bev Cameron flank the employees promoted in the first half of 2012:

Promoted to Sergeant: Dave Reilly; promoted to Sergeant: Nikki Gentry; promoted to Lieutenant: Bill Hallam; promoted to Captain: Jim Kuebler.



Employees promoted in the second half of 2012 shake hands with Chief Nye after taking their Oath of Office. Promoted to Corporal: Jamie Walker; promoted to Sergeant: Dana Nielsen\*; promoted to Lieutenant: H.D. Jones; promoted to Captain: Brian Layton

\*Nielsen promoted twice in 2012

## *Awards and Achievements*

### **OFFICER OF THE YEAR – Detective Carlos Reyes**



Detective Carlos Reyes demonstrated outstanding interview skills this past year. An expert interviewer must be able to relate to the person being interviewed and have experience using different techniques. Detective Reyes has been tasked with investigating crimes of sexual violence for this agency. In these types of crimes the interviewer must decide who is telling the truth and who is lying, for the attacker is usually known to the victim and usually claim the act was with the consent of the victim. Often, only the skills of the interviewer can determine who is telling the truth.

On March 3, 2012, a citizen reported possible sexual abuse of a 5-year-old female. The suspect in this case had previously been the subject of other suspicious activity concerning children. Detective Reyes built a strong rapport with the suspect until he finally felt comfortable enough to describe fantasies about children and about his inappropriate contact with the child victim. Based on these statements, the suspect was charged and jailed. On November 27, 2012 Detective Reyes responded to James Monroe High School along with Detectives Garrett and Johnson to interview a juvenile victim in an alleged armed sexual attack. Detective Reyes interviewed the victim and by watching her body language and demeanor when answering questions and felt she was not being truthful to him. The next day he followed up with the victim at school and was able to get the victim to admit she had made this crime up by building up a rapport with her and gaining her trust.

Carlos is a member of the Crisis Negotiation Team and has utilized his expert interviewing skills to negotiate with subjects and convince them to surrender without harming themselves, the public, or officers. On March 15, 2012, Detective Reyes responded to the Thomas Jefferson Motel barricade situation as a Crisis Negotiator. He was selected by CNT command as primary negotiator and began his role with very little preparation or intelligence on the situation. He negotiated with the subject for approximately an hour to an hour and a half. Detective Reyes was able to secure the situation and have the subject surrender to the SETT team without incident.

Carlos has been called on by other agencies as far away as Orange to assist them as an interpreter with child sex abuse victims. His reputation has grown in the law enforcement community as a detective who understands the complexities of these special investigations. Since the retirement of Detective Stubbs in October 2012, Carlos has taken on a rigorous caseload by investigating crimes of sexual violence and abuse against juveniles that are reported to the Fredericksburg Police Department. Our department is very fortunate to have such a highly skilled investigator on our staff. In addition to this award, Detective Reyes was also selected by the Elks Lodge as their 2012 Officer of the Year.

### **EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR – Colette Truslow**

On February 8, 2012, the Treasurer's Office instituted new procedures concerning bank transfers for the money being collected by Records personnel. Colette, being the Records supervisor, brought up several items of concern that they had not addressed. She obtained clarification on the transfer procedures which enabled the new procedures to run smoothly for the Records personnel.

Also on this date, Colette discovered that the evidence module in the Records Management System was automatically defaulting to the "returned from lab" status when evidence was returned. The evidence may have been checked out for other reasons, but the module was not recognizing it. If this error was not corrected, it would have caused major problems with evidence and the chain of

custody in court. Colette immediately submitted an emergency Track IT to I.T. and followed through to make sure the issue was resolved.

On February 21, 2012, evidence personnel were exposed to battery acid fumes. Colette made sure that each person was reported as an exposure to the City's Safety Coordinator and VML. She also initiated the call to the fire department to report the incident. In April, Colette entered 28 new pieces of evidence while the evidence clerk was out sick. Colette was able to perform all of her normal duties and complete this task as well.

On June 25, 2012, Colette was assigned a full scale Property and Evidence vault audit. This task took over two months to complete as there were approximately 7,600 items that needed to be accounted for. With the assistance of a volunteer and another employee, and balancing vacation schedules, Colette coordinated this audit in addition to ensuring her normal duties were completed in a timely manner. This audit was completed on August 24, 2012 just prior to the CALEA re-accreditation inspection and Colette also made herself available during the inspection to be interviewed by assessors about Property and Evidence procedures. The assessors made specific mention about how impressed they were with Colette's knowledge of the evidence procedures.



### **AUXILIARY OFFICER OF THE YEAR – John Fesq**

During the year of 2012, John logged 296 hours as a volunteer for an average of 24.7 hours per month for the Fredericksburg Police Department. As a result of



his patrol time, John responded to 77 events took 5 preliminary reports and 6 supplements. He attended all 12 of the Auxiliary meetings.

John further covered eight of the twenty-two City Council Meetings. He completed all of his DCJS in-service requirements for 2012 in advance of his mandatory due date of December. John participated in assisting with traffic control for the Marine Corps Half Marathon as well as the Annual Christmas Parade.

John has proven to be a very valuable asset for the Fredericksburg Police Department.

**Police Officer Receives Award for DUI** – On September 7, Officer Dan Finn was honored with an award from Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the Rappahannock Alcohol Safety Action Program for his outstanding efforts to combat drunk driving through aggressive enforcement and high visibility patrol. Officer Finn was selected for this award not only because of the number of arrests he made for DUI in the previous year, but also because of his demonstrated proficiency in documenting his investigations and securing convictions in court.

**911 Manager** – A new civilian Communications Manager position was created in 2012 to lead the E-911 Center. This supervisory assignment has been filled in recent years by a Patrol Sergeant, but a study conducted by an outside consultant recommended that the duties could be better fulfilled by a qualified non-sworn professional who reports to the Captain of Support Services. After a competitive process, Ms. Melissa Wood was selected for this new position and began her new duties in March. Ms. Wood has many years experience as a

dispatcher and floor supervisor in the E-911 Center as well as a brief time of employment with the city's I.T. Department.

**Leadership Program** - Communications Manager Melissa Wood and Sgt. Rikki Johnson graduated from the Rappahannock Criminal Justice Academy Tier II Leadership Program on April 18, 2012. This was a three week long program, and twenty-four law enforcement supervisors from all over the state attended. Both are pictured with RRCJA Executive Director Dave Vice.



**Police Detective Completes Testing for Polygraph Examiners** – On July 19, Sergeant Pat Reed passed his final Virginia State Polygraph Board Examinations that were administered by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). This was the end of a long and hard journey for Sergeant Reed that began in July, 2011 when he first applied for acceptance into the Maryland Institute of Criminal Justice, an accredited polygraph school. He attended school from September through November last year and graduated

after completing 320 hours of classroom study and submitting a research paper. In December, Sergeant Reed received his Intern Polygraph License through DPOR, and he served a seven-month internship under the direct supervision of the Police Department's licensed polygraph examiner while preparing for his final examination. The State Final Examination consists of three parts with a time allowed of six hours; Sergeant Reed completed his testing in less than three hours and passed all components with honors.

**New K-9 Team on Patrol** – On November 20, Officer Josh Lynch and his new partner Max graduated together from K-9 School, which was hosted by the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office. Max is a 4-year-old German Shepherd who was



previously partnered with Officer Dave Reilly. When Officer Reilly received a promotion to Sergeant, his supervisory responsibilities required him to either transfer Max to a new partner or retire him. Max is a very motivated and capable patrol dog and he is apparently happy to continue working. Officer Lynch and Max are trained in tracking, suspect apprehension, and narcotics detection.



## *Conversations with the Community*



The City of Fredericksburg is very proud to have been selected as the 2012 recipient of the Communications Award from the Virginia Municipal League. The VML award letter stated "The city's entry describing how its Police Department turned what could have been an ordinary blog into a communications tool that is building relationships throughout the community was judged as the best project or program in the communications category that was open to local governments of all sizes."

The winning submission can be read [here](#).

Written by the department's Public Information Officer, Ms. Natatia Bledsoe, the communications initiative represents a unique partnership with local media through the hosting of the site by *fredericksburg.com*. The blog allows the agency to conduct a dialogue directly with the residents of the Fredericksburg area who are directly affected by concerns of crime and law enforcement activity. The topics range from education to highlights of special programs to spotlights on Good Samaritans. The following are several examples of these *conversations with the community*.

**“Stealth Radar” adds to the discussion about crashes into the City Cemetery wall**

There has been much discussion concerning the repeated vehicle crashes into the City Cemetery wall, and many residents, including the writer of [this editorial](#), may conclude that the prevalence of drivers speeding in the area is to blame.

While this assumption would seem to be reasonable, it is not supported by the data collected by the Police Department in a survey that studied the habits of drivers on Amelia St near the intersection with Washington Avenue, the common launching point of errant vehicles before they impact the brick wall.



On February 21-23, 2012, the Police Department deployed a device on Amelia Street called “Stealth Radar”, which is a small self-contained box that captures and records data from passing vehicles. The radar device is very unobtrusive and rarely noticed by motorists and pedestrians, as it resembles other typical boxes which may be mounted on a telephone pole or similar piece of the street landscape. The device is not a traffic

enforcement tool. It is simply a means to collect information that can be used to highlight the need for added enforcement or to influence the placement of traffic control signs or signals.

The Police Department uses the device to determine the locations in the City and the times of the day and week where our resources can best be used to control violators and thus contribute to the overall safety of the streets in Fredericksburg.

The data collected over the three days in February on Amelia Street is enlightening.

During the three-day time period studied, a total of 6,448 vehicles passed the Stealth Radar device on Amelia Street.

The average speed of the vehicles was 23 miles per hour. The speed limit on Amelia Street is 25 miles per hour.

Of the vehicles tracked, 50 percent of them were traveling at 24 miles per hour or slower, and 85 percent of them were traveling at 29 miles per hour or slower. Unless other mitigating circumstances exist, an officer will not stop a vehicle or ticket a driver traveling 29 mph in a 25 mph zone. (If an over-zealous officer did write such a citation, the chances of it being thrown out in court are near certain.)

Out of the 6,448 cars in the study, the highest speed captured was 50 miles per hour and that was from a single vehicle. Fully 98 percent of the vehicles were traveling 34 miles per hour or slower.

Further studies will be conducted of this particular intersection, as well as of other intersections and roadways where problems have been identified. Unfortunately, there are many locations throughout Fredericksburg where drivers routinely exceed the posted speed limit; however, the majority of those locations are not in the downtown area nor are they in residential areas.

While residential areas are the focus of a large number of complaints about speeding, when studied it is generally found that the perception of

the problem is not supported by the statistics gathered. This misperception is understandable when you consider that vehicles *appear* to be going much faster than they really are when the observer is a pedestrian on the sidewalk and when the reported speeding vehicle is traveling past unmoving parked cars.

The deployment of a stationary patrol officer with radar would simply be a wasted resource if the vast majority of the drivers traveling through the targeted area are not violating the law to a degree that will be supported by a court disposition.

We want everyone *everywhere* to slow down, obey the traffic laws, stay off your cell phones, and do NOT drive while impaired. And please, do use some extra care when navigating the intersection at the entrance to the City and Confederate Cemeteries. The wall has borne these repeated insults with grace and dignity, but enough is enough!

### **Cracking Down on “Cash for Gold”**

With the price of gold at a record high and many businesses in the area advertising “WE BUY GOLD”, there are many local residents who decide to dispose of their unwanted jewelry by trading it for cash. Of course there is nothing wrong with this, as long as the seller is the legitimate owner of the jewelry in question. Unfortunately, the easy liquidation of gold items into currency has made the theft of these valuables a tempting and profitable enterprise.

City police detectives are currently working several burglary cases where the thieves pilfered valuables from bedroom drawers and jewelry boxes. While fingerprints and other physical evidence can often lead to a solid suspect, tracking and recovering the stolen property is sometimes near impossible.

Some of the blame for that difficulty rests on the gold buyers who often don't know or don't care that they are purchasing somebody's stolen jewelry. Once lost in the muddle of an undocumented transaction, vital evidence that could be used to help prosecute an offender is melted down and gone forever.

There are many reputable precious metals dealers in Fredericksburg who conduct business in accordance with state and local codes, but there are many others who skirt the law to the detriment of all of us. There are several requirements that dealers must meet in order to operate legally.

To be sure that you are getting an honest exchange on the sale of your jewelry, you should only do business with dealers who can prove they are in compliance with the law.

- All business owners in Fredericksburg must have a valid business license issued by the City's Commissioner of the Revenue.
- All precious metals dealers must have a certificate from the State Office of Consumer Affairs, indicating that all scales are proper and accurate.
- All precious metals dealers must have a valid permit issued by the Police Department.

In addition to holding the proper licenses and certifications, a precious metals dealer must by law maintain an "accurate and legible record of each purchase" for 24 months, and that accurate record must include a full description of the item(s) purchased and complete information concerning the identity of the seller. (Code of Virginia 15.2-1114, 54.1-4100, 54.1-4111 and Fredericksburg City Code 22-81 through 22-92 provide the authority to regulate dealers in precious metals.)

When a stolen item is found in the possession of a gold dealer or pawn shop, the adherence to strict record-keeping is critical to connecting the theft of your stolen heirloom to the bad guy who hocked it to pay for his expensive addiction. Only do business with dealers who maintain these high standards; by doing so, you help protect victims from larceny and fraud.

The owners of valuable jewelry can also take several steps to protect their property and increase the chance of getting it back should it be stolen.

1. Keep a record of all jewelry purchases, including receipts and appraisal.

2. Photograph all pieces and file each photo with a detailed written description of the item, including jeweler's marks and engravings.
3. Itemize all jewelry and include on your homeowner's insurance policy.

To combat the increase in unregulated "cash for gold" operations, the Police Department will be carrying out unannounced inspections of dealers who are suspected of ignoring the laws pertaining to this business, with the object of verifying records and licensure. Detectives may also conduct undercover sales by posing as customers wishing to unload jewelry. Dealers who are operating outside the law face a Class 2 misdemeanor charge for the first offense, while a second or subsequent offense is a Class 1 misdemeanor and conviction will result in the mandatory forfeiture of their business license.

### **Sometimes a Hero lives right next door**

On Friday, April 27, around lunchtime, Bob Miller got up from the seat in his front room to retrieve something out of the icebox, then glanced out the window and saw a man running across his neighbor's front yard. Since that seemed unusual, he took a closer look outside and saw another man collapsed on the curb in front of his neighbor's house in College Heights.

Bob rushed outside. He recognized the man on the ground as William\*, the man who has been cutting the grass for his neighbor Betty, an elderly widow, for more than ten years.

The man Bob had seen running was William's son, and he had just gotten off the phone with 911 and sprinted back to his father but he didn't know how to perform CPR.

Bob took a CPR class many years ago, and he took over. He already knew that help was on the way, so Bob followed the remaining critical steps from his CPR training.

Survey the scene. The weed-eater that William had been operating was still running, so Bob turned it off and moved it out of the way.

Assess the patient. Bob quickly checked and found that William was unconscious, not breathing, and without a discernible pulse.

Start CPR. Bob began chest compressions and rescue breathing.

Very soon after Bob started CPR, police officer Jamie Walker arrived and took over chest compressions, followed in less than a minute by Fredericksburg's professional EMS and Fire personnel. With their advanced training and skills, coupled with life-saving equipment, the Fire and EMS providers were able to restore William's breathing and stabilize his heart rhythm before transporting him to the emergency room. He was transferred to a room in ICU later in the day.

The American Heart Association says that the best chance of surviving a cardiac emergency requires early CPR and medical intervention. But when that cardiac emergency occurs outside of a hospital setting, then sometimes the best chance of survival depends on someone like Bob, who was willing and able to help save a life.

Bob told me that he doesn't know William well at all; they've just had a few worldly wise conversations while William took care of the landscaping for various older neighbors. He said he jokingly gave William a hard time once for working on a holiday.

When I asked Bob how he felt about what happened today, he said "I just had to do something, even if he does vote Republican."

\*Name changed to protect his privacy

Through these doors  
walk Virginia's finest  
police officers.

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Through these doors

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And **all** the men and women of the Fredericksburg Police Department who *serve, protect, and inspire...*

