

2014

FPD Annual Report



Fredericksburg Police Department

... Chief's Message



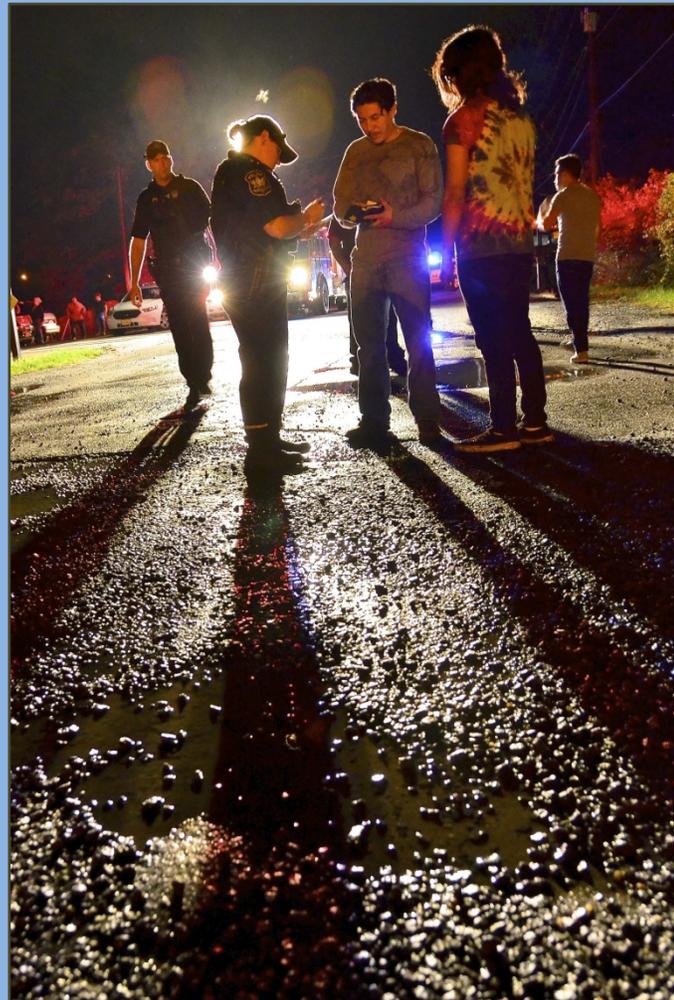
The Fredericksburg Police Department made great strides in 2014 to implement new technology that enhances the safety of the community. We were one of the first agencies in the Commonwealth to outfit our entire patrol and detective force with body-worn cameras, a measure that underlines our commitment to transparency and accountability. The most important advantage of the

body cameras is their ability to document circumstances surrounding encounters between law enforcement officers and the citizens they serve, which can only reinforce the trust we have worked to build over the years.

We also successfully organized the first gun give-back program ever held in the Commonwealth of Virginia, which resulted in the voluntary surrender of over 60 unwanted weapons. This program succeeded despite resistance from the Virginia Citizens Defense League, who tried to block our efforts in court. I look forward to holding another give-back program in the coming year with even greater support from the community.

The men and women of our department gave back to our community by continuing fundraising efforts for Special Olympics Virginia, hosting children at our Camp Crime Fighters for the second year in a row, and providing all-hands-on support to the city's largest events such as the Marine Corps Historic Half and the annual downtown Christmas Parade. We take pride in supporting these community events.

But our department's character is truly defined by the daily interactions we have with the people who live here, work here, or are just passing through the eleven square miles that make up the City of Fredericksburg. It is those everyday occurrences that are least likely to be



captured or remembered, except by those to whom it made a difference in that moment.

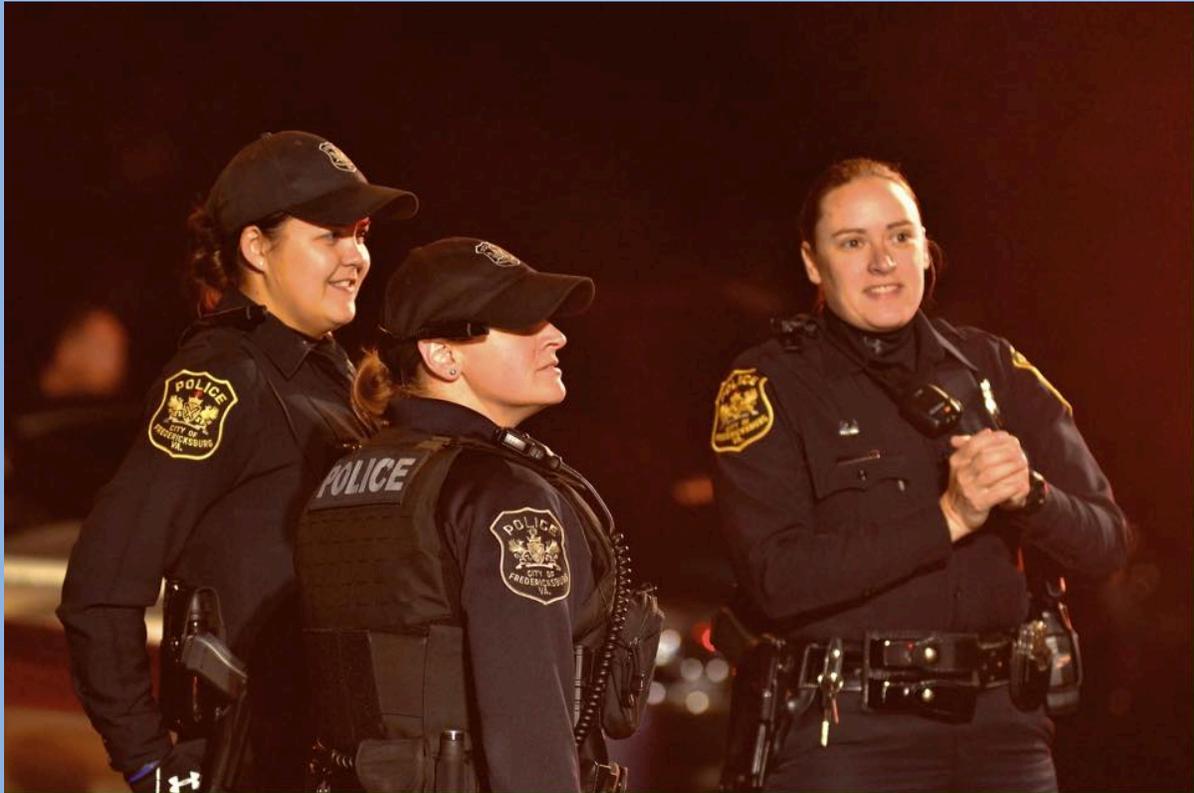
Our department seems to get younger every year, and 2014 was no exception as we welcomed nine new recruits to join our law enforcement family. I look forward to watching these men and women develop in their chosen career of service, and I remain very proud of all of the men and women of the Fredericksburg Police Department who represent us in such an outstanding manner.

David W. Nye



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Year in Review

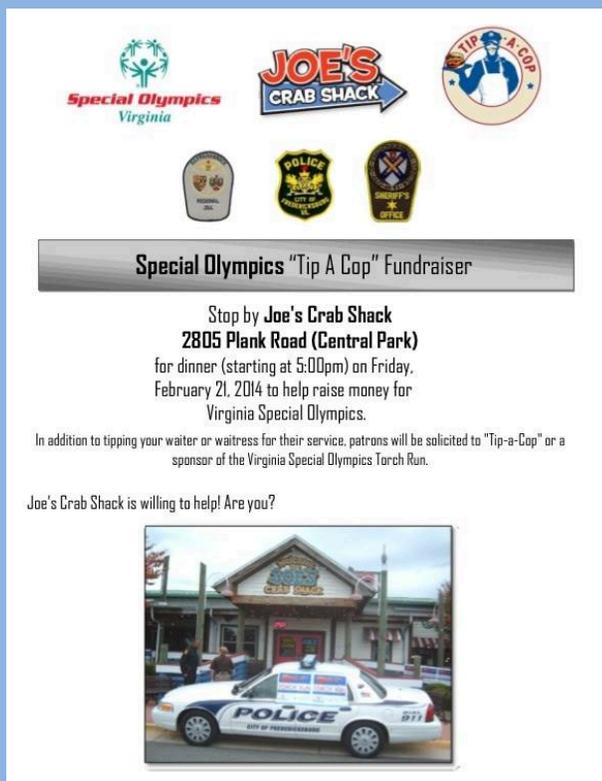
January –

In late 2013, the Police Department contracted with PoliceOne.com Academy to provide employees the opportunity to obtain high quality web-based training on a large number of topics specific to law enforcement. In January 2014, the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy approved over twenty online classes as eligible to satisfy in-service credit requirements. To maintain certification with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, officers must receive forty hours of in-service training every two years. The online classes from PoliceOne.com facilitate this requirement by allowing for ease of

scheduling to accommodate around-the-clock patrol shifts.

February –

Throughout the year, the Police Department holds fundraisers and other events in support of Special Olympics Virginia. In February, the PD partnered with a local restaurant, Joe's Crab Shack, to hold a Tip-A-Cop event where law



The flyer features logos for Special Olympics Virginia, Joe's Crab Shack, and Tip-A-Cop. It also includes three police department patches: a Virginia State Police patch, a Stafford County Sheriff's Office patch, and a Stafford County Police patch. The text reads: "Special Olympics 'Tip A Cop' Fundraiser", "Stop by Joe's Crab Shack 2805 Plank Road (Central Park) for dinner (starting at 5:00pm) on Friday, February 21, 2014 to help raise money for Virginia Special Olympics.", "In addition to tipping your waiter or waitress for their service, patrons will be solicited to 'Tip-a-Cop' or a sponsor of the Virginia Special Olympics Torch Run.", and "Joe's Crab Shack is willing to help! Are you?". At the bottom is a photograph of a police car parked in front of the Joe's Crab Shack restaurant.

enforcement officers act as servers and donate their tips to the cause.

March –

To address staffing shortages and fully integrate the mission of community policing into the Patrol Division, the four Community Police Officers (CPOs) were each transferred to different Patrol Squads and their primary responsibility became responding to calls for service within their assigned zone of the city. As squad staffing and call volume permitted, the squad CPO also engaged in problem-solving activities in their assigned CPO neighborhood. To ensure continuity, the CPOs received a zone assignment that encompassed the neighborhood corresponding to their previous CPO assignment. Sergeant Kuebler remained as the Community Policing Coordinator in charge of overseeing the citywide community policing strategy. He also acted as the single point of contact for administrative functions of the CPOs.

April –

When the weather warms up, incidents involving drinking and driving greatly increase. The Police Department participated in the Virginia State Police campaign to urge motorists to **Stay Alive.....Don't Drink and Drive!**



Cpl. Heather Marshall searches inside an overturned vehicle whose driver was taken to the hospital...he was also charged with DUI. Luckily nobody else was injured.

May –

The entire force of sworn personnel began using our new [body-worn cameras](#) to capture video of citizen encounters.

Captain Rick Pennock was presented with the “Oscar Mike Award” from the Marine Corps Historic Half in recognition of his support of the event since 2007. The award, which translates to “On the Move” from the military phonetic alphabet, is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the Historic Half, the running community, and to the City of Fredericksburg. Captain Pennock has been working with the Historic Half since

its inception and has served as the Police Incident Commander and in other vital roles during every running of the event. With his leadership and guidance over the years, the marathon organizers were able to add the 10K and 5K competitions to the lineup of events on race day. MCM Director Rick Nealis said of Captain Pennock's impact: "His knowledge and leadership allowed the MCM to develop courses and safely welcome an additional 2,000 runners to Historic Half Weekend. He's proud of his city and has worked hard to showcase its beauty, history and landmarks during the Historic Half."

Officers participated in the Law Enforcement United ["Road to Hope"](#), a 250-mile bicycle ride to honor all of those law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty. The LEU ride is a traditional kick-off to National Police Week. The Fredericksburg Police Department's headquarters has been a regular way station on the LEU ride for participants to stop for rest and refreshments. The riders also have a chance to offer their tribute to the [fallen officers of FPD](#):

Officer Todd Allen Bahr EOW 6/6/08

Sergeant Roy Glen Wright EOW 5/5/64

Patrolman William Franklin Mines EOW 5/5/64

Traffic Officer Ellsworth Alexander Moore EOW 5/31/25

June –

Members of the city Police and Sheriff's Departments, along with friends and family of local law enforcement, ran the Torch Run for Special Olympics Virginia on June 6. The torch was handed over by runners from the Stafford County Sheriff's Office on the Falmouth Bridge at 8 a.m. A few miles later the city participants safely delivered the Flame of Hope to the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's Office at the city/county line on Route 1 as the torch continued on its way to Richmond for the opening ceremonies of the Special Olympics competition.



July –

For the second year in a row, the Police Department hosted a popular day camp for city kids ages 8-12 called Camp Crime Fighters. The week-



long experience led by the community police officers allowed the children to learn about forensics, specialized law enforcement training, Eddie Eagle gun safety, age appropriate physical self-defense, and lots more! Additional pictures from the week's [activities can be found here](#).

August –

On August 18, the Police Department conducted a session of training in “active shooter” scenarios at Hugh Mercer Elementary School. The training, mandatory for all sworn employees, focused on response and search techniques applicable to large and complex buildings, target identification and neutralization, and triage and rescue of survivors from ongoing incidents. After classroom instruction, officers and detectives worked through several different simulations



of emergency situations in the school hallways and classrooms. Two additional training sessions were also scheduled to ensure that all personnel are better prepared for an event involving one of the city's schools.

September –

On September 27, the Police and Fire Departments along with Mary Washington Healthcare participated in the DEA's National Prescription Drug Take-Back initiative by staffing drop-off locations at police headquarters, Fire Station 1, and the Tompkins Martin Medical Plaza. The nationwide initiative aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential

for abuse of medications. In the city, over 314 pounds of prescription drugs were collected for disposal.

October -

Downtown Trick-or-Treating - On October 25, the city's Community Police Officers participated in another successful annual Halloween tradition by partnering with downtown merchants to host trick-or-treating at stores in the historic district. Officers handed out trick-or-treat bags at Riverfront Park from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. to scores of costumed children who were then warmly welcomed by the retailers in the downtown corridor with candy and other goodies.

November –

Building Upgrades at Police Headquarters - Two scheduled upgrades to the police facility at 2200 Cowan Boulevard were completed with support and assistance from Information Technology staff. Contractors upgraded and replaced the security cameras throughout the building to digital equipment that has greatly enhanced quality and clarity. Additionally, cameras were added to the prisoner transfer sally-port area and a second camera was installed in the booking room to increase the coverage for those critical areas. Contractors also replaced the external and internal card-reader door lock systems throughout the building.



On November 20, five officer recruits graduated from the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy and became certified as law enforcement officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The new officers were all assigned to the Patrol Division and entered the next phase of their education under the guidance of the department's Field Training Officers. Three of the new officers graduated with honors from RRCJA: Officer Joshua Gilworth (far left) was awarded with the overall top academic achievement, Officer Amber Hoaglund (front left) won the award for top physical fitness among the female candidates, and Officer Joshua Pastell (center) was recognized for top OVERALL skills of all the Academy graduates.



December – The Special Equipment and Tactical Team (SETT) and the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) conducted a joint training exercise at Dixon Park on December 11. The exercise simulated the rescue of a person held hostage inside a vehicle. The two teams train regularly, both together and separately, to maintain their readiness for high risk scenarios such as this one.



For the holiday season, employees and friends of the PD filled two boxes of toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program.

Every year, volunteers from the department participate in the “Cops and Kids” program (formerly “Shop with a Cop”) sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police. The year 2014 was no exception, and a large portion of the



funds used to support the program came from the inaugural [Gun Give-Back](#) initiative. The “Cops and Kids” program allows disadvantaged children to purchase Christmas presents and other needed items such as clothing at the local Target store.



Focus on Body cameras

Fredericksburg city police officers are now carrying a new high tech tool in an effort to combat crime. About the size of a cigar and attached to the lapel or sunglasses, the new Axon body cameras made by Taser International are designed to capture video and audio of an officer's actions and perspective during an investigation or enforcement encounter.

There are many agencies across the country that have started deploying some form of body camera along with the other gear worn by street officers and detectives. The quality of the video produced is impressive, and the captured data is strong evidence to support a written report documenting an interview or an officer's interaction with the public.



Officers do not activate the cameras for every random conversation or minor citizen encounter, and recordings that are not useful for evidence or training are automatically purged from the

storage system after thirty days. Prior to outfitting all of our patrol officers with the new devices, we spent several months testing the cameras and gathering feedback from select officers who were wearing them on a trial basis. We also wrote and rewrote a directive to govern the details of the camera use, which includes this excerpt:

“The use of video and audio recording will be for the purpose of recording evidentiary data to assist in the enforcement and prosecution of federal, state and local statutes. It will also be used to provide an accurate record of an incident for investigative purposes, risk management, civil liability defense and enhancement of officer safety.”

Officers are not required to inform a citizen that they are being recorded, but some of our officers have already noticed that potentially volatile situations often de-escalate once someone realizes their words and actions are being captured on tape.

A recent [New York Times article](#) chronicled the increase in the use of body cameras among law enforcement and noted an interesting ongoing study from the police department in Rialto, California, which has been using the cameras since early 2012. The study found that citizen complaints against officers dropped 88 percent during the first year of camera deployment, and the Rialto officers' use of force during the same time frame declined by 60 percent.

While the Fredericksburg Police Department already has a low rate of citizen complaints and



incidents requiring the use of force, the number of sustained complaints and incidents involving use of force dropped substantially in the first eleven months

since implementation of the body camera system. It is our expectation that we will continue to see positive effects from the use of this new technology as we strive to improve our service to the community.



Gun Give-Back

The Police and Sheriff's Departments' voluntary Gun Give-Back event, initiated by Councilor Charlie "Chuck" Frye, Jr. and sponsored by local philanthropist Ms. Doris Buffett, exceeded the expectations of all of its participants with a final tally of 60 weapons collected in just four hours on December 13. A steady stream of gun owners drove through the back parking lot at the PD headquarters and dropped off their firearms, which officers catalogued,



packaged, and stored for eventual destruction.

The voluntary give-back succeeded despite the efforts of the Virginia Citizens Defense League to block the program in court. [On December 11](#), Circuit Court Judge Gordon Willis ordered

that the VCDL lacked the standing required for the case to be heard, and the plans for the event continued. Members in support of the VCDL position protested by rallying on Todd Bahr Drive and trying to deter citizens from turning in



their weapons, but their attempts were not successful.

The firearms collected included handguns, long guns, a few homemade shotguns, and a handful of other types of guns such as BB, flare, and pellet weapons. Ms. Buffett promised a \$100 donation to a local charity for each firearm turned in during the event, and additionally for any firearm voluntarily surrendered to the Police Department through March 31, 2015. (An additional nine firearms were turned in by the deadline.) The majority of those surrendering firearms (27) requested that the donation should go to Micah Ministries, followed closely by Cops and Kids (22.5), with the remainder going to Empower House, the Thurman Brisben Homeless Shelter, or no preference indicated.



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	2013	2014	Comparison 2013/2014
Murder and non-negligent homicide*	0	1	2	1	0	-1
Forcible rape*	11	3	1	3	7	+4
Robbery	20	24	19	29	24	-5
Aggravated Assault*	71	73	86	80	92	+12
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	119	102	88	66	77	+11
Larceny	936	938	922	1038	1091	+53
Motor Vehicle Theft	31	32	20	32	39	+7
TOTAL	1188	1173	1138	1249	1330	+81

*count by number of victims, not by number of incidents

The statistical chart represents the number of reported major crimes in calendar years 2010 -2014. The data in the comparison **may differ** from those published in the Virginia State Police Crime Report and/or previous FPD 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](#).

Homicide

The willful killing of one human being by another

There were no homicides in Fredericksburg in 2014.

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

All of the offenders in the rape cases investigated in 2014 were known to their victims through an intimate relationship or friend/acquaintance relationship. This fact in no way diminishes the very serious nature of these crimes, but it does emphasize that rapes committed by strangers remain very rare in the City of Fredericksburg.

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

Of the 24 robberies committed in 2014, 8 of them, or 33%, were to commercial establishments. One of those businesses was the PNC Bank on April 30, which resulted in the [swift and dramatic apprehension](#) of the offender just minutes after the crime. The number of yearly robbery cases in Fredericksburg has remained consistent, with an average of 21 investigations annually over the past five years.



Aggravated Assault

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

The most disturbing trend in our crime statistics is the continued increase in aggravated assaults, with 92 victims reporting serious offenses against them in 2014. Of those investigations, 26% were related to domestic violence, and 19.5% of the total number of cases involved the use of a firearm.

Burglary

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

The recent downward trend in the number of burglaries reversed course somewhat in 2014 with a total of 77 cases in 2014 compared to the low of 66 cases in the previous year. Sixty-seven percent of the burglaries were

committed at private homes and residences, with the remainder being committed at commercial locations throughout the city.

Larceny

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

The vast majority of the crimes reported to the Fredericksburg Police Department are larcenies, and these numbers show an increase over the past two years. Of the 1091 larcenies reported in 2014, 35% of them were cases of shoplifting from businesses while 22% involved thefts of items from personal vehicles. Larcenies from vehicles often were connected by date and by proximity, and a large number of these cases were closed in 2014 with the apprehension of just a few offenders.



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 39 cases of reported stolen vehicles, motorcycles, and scooters in the city in 2014.

The number and frequency of crimes in Fredericksburg showed an overall increase in 2014, with all categories of Part 1 crimes trending upwards to some degree except for robberies and homicide. Among those crimes involving personal injury, such as rape and aggravated assault, the severity of the numbers are mitigated somewhat by the fact that most of these cases involve offenders who had a previous connection of acquaintance or family relationship with their victims. While this factor does not lessen the seriousness of each individual offense, it does underscore the continued low probability of strangers choosing their victims at random.

Clearance Rates - 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 2014).

<i>Clearance Rates</i>	<i>FPD 2013</i>	<i>FPD 2014</i>	<i>USA 2013</i>
<i>Homicide</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>62.5%</i>
<i>Rape</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>40.1%</i>
<i>Robbery</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>28.1%</i>
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>55.8%</i>
<i>Burglary</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>12.7%</i>
<i>Larceny</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>22.0%</i>
<i>Vehicle Theft</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>11.9%</i>

Promotions



Corporal Crystal Wilson was promoted to Sergeant on January 18, 2014.



Sergeants Barry Taylor and Rikki Johnson were promoted to Lieutenant on March 15, 2014.



Lieutenant Mark Purcell was promoted to Captain - Services Division on March 15, 2014.



Officer Josh Lynch and Corporal Rashawn Cowles were promoted to Sergeant on March 15, 2014.

Awards and Achievements

Officer of the 2nd and 4th Quarters/Officer of the Year – Officer Jason Pitts



Twice in 2014, Officer Pitts was selected as the Officer of the Quarter for his outstanding efforts and dedicated service to the department. He was also selected as the Officer of the Year. During the fourth quarter, Jason provided numerous extra hours to assist the agency with training, firearms inspections, and assisting the Narcotics detectives with various operations. He provided overtime assistance with an undercover police presence at the Bike Fest in Colonial Beach. Additionally he helped the Narcotics section track down a methamphetamine suspect who was wanted by the U.S. Marshal's Task Force. This led to the arrest of the dealer and a large seizure of cash, drugs, and electronics. Furthermore, he attended the annual gang conference in Virginia Beach and brought back informative training on the Sovereign Citizens Movement. In November, he presented this training to the entire Patrol division. Officer Pitts was asked to put together a 4th Amendment class for the Field Training Evaluation Program refresher school on November 12, and he did so without hesitation. He presented the material on a day where he had worked the night before, and he still came in again that night and worked his entire shift. He was further tasked with putting together a class on the use OC spray to assist with the Defensive Tactics training course. Officer Pitts also certified the new recruits in OC and Taser training. He further conducted Taser recertification for numerous patrol officers. In addition to all of the training that he conducted within specified time parameters, Jason completed the inspection of several weapons in the department inventory that was required to maintain compliance with CALEA standards.

Jason maintained very high standards in his Patrol duties while responding to calls for service and assisting other officers on the street. In December, he noticed a truck parked in front of the old General District Court building which was under construction. It was the middle of the night and the truck contained copper piping in the back. After further investigation, he was able to apprehend the offender and identify the items in the truck as stolen items from the construction worksite. In another case, Jason observed two intoxicated males who were tampering with street benches as they were walking home. Watching them from a concealed position, he saw them pick up something from the front of the Fredericksburg Presbyterian Church. When he caught up to them and detained them a short time later, it was discovered that the men had stolen a piece of the fencing surrounding the church. This was first installed in the 1830s and would have cost nearly \$10,000 to replace. Officer Pitts is always highly motivated in his mission to combat crime and gives more than 100% to the department and the city he serves.

Employee of the 4th Quarter/Employee of the Year – Laura Mahaney



During the first quarter, Laura Mahaney, Executive Assistant to the Chief, organized a luncheon for other law enforcement assistants in the surrounding jurisdictions, including Stafford, Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg, King George, Caroline, and the Rappahannock Regional Jail. The group continued to meet quarterly throughout the year. She also coordinated a meeting with Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring and local law enforcement officials after being contacted by Herring's assistant.

In the second quarter, Laura attended the annual memorial service at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy and participated in the annual Torch Run. She also became a member of the logistics team to support

ICS, participated in planning meetings for Camp Crime Fighters, and helped with the Tip-A-Cop function at Joe's Crab Shack to support Special Olympics.

During the third quarter, Laura actively took part in Camp Crime Fighters by purchasing snacks, developing craft projects, purchasing supplies, and volunteering to help with the camp activities in addition to maintaining her regular duties. She attended the third quarter ICS training and as a member of the logistics team, she worked at the Alan Jackson concert. She also coordinated and attended a meeting about logistics specific to ICS with Shawn Bennett at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. She attended the Traffic Operations meeting hosted by the VDOT Regional Incident Management Coordinator and participated in the United Way Day of Caring on September 26.

During the fourth quarter, Laura participated in the city's Wellness Challenge and the Rappahannock United Way cornhole tournament. She attended the Fredericksburg Regional Traffic Incident Management Exercise at the National Guard Armory, representing the city in a logistics role. She attended several planning meetings for the Christmas Parade, constantly updating the logistics check list and making several recommendations. In December she worked closely with the Parks and Recreation Department during the week prior to the parade in order to complete final preparations. On the day of the parade she worked in a logistics role. She was also a contributor to the success of the city's first gun give-back event. Laura demonstrated her enthusiastic support for the department and the city throughout the year.

Auxiliary Officer of the Year - Auxiliary Officer Patrick Swartz

During 2014, Auxiliary Officer Swartz logged 297 hours of service to the city, averaging 24.7 hours per month. The great majority of his time was spent working in Patrol and covering shifts when ensuring full staffing was an issue. He handled 186 calls for service, made 5 criminal arrests, and issued 14 traffic summons. He also met the responsibility of court attendance, logging nine days in court despite holding a full-time job, which strongly indicates his active participation in the performance of his duties. He assisted with the Marine Corps Historic Half and the Christmas Parade. But most importantly, Patrick gave his time where it is most needed by working with the supervisors in the Patrol Division and covering shifts for other officers. Auxiliary Officer Swartz is a valuable asset to the City of Fredericksburg.



Lifesaving Award – Officer Mike Buckley

On August 25, Officer Mike Buckley was returning from Patrol Rifle Operator training at the range. As he and Officer Chewning were crossing the Falmouth Bridge, Officer Buckley observed a male subject standing on the bridge. Mike then saw the man climb the protective railing and put a leg over the side. Understanding that the man was preparing to jump from the bridge in an apparent suicide attempt, Officer Buckley sprang from the passenger seat of Chewning's vehicle and quickly grabbed the man in a bear hug, pulling him back to safety. Both officers then controlled the subject until Stafford deputies arrived on the scene and took him into custody on an ECO. Officer Buckley was not on duty or in uniform at the time of this incident. His reaction to the unfolding circumstance was immediate and decisive and prevented the likely death or serious injury to a young man in mental crisis. His decision to risk his

own safety in the rescue of a citizen is highly commendable and a true example of public service of the highest caliber.

Lifesaving Award – Officers Heather Lloyd and Corey Dobson

On October 3, Officer Heather Lloyd was dispatched Code 1 to assist rescue with a CPR in progress involving a 28-year-old female who had overdosed on heroin. Heather was the first emergency responder on the scene. She immediately checked the victim for a pulse and finding none, applied the pads from her department-issued AED. Per the AED instructions, Heather bypassed delivering a shock and started chest compressions. Officer Dobson was next to arrive and began administering respirations to the victim using his department-issued mask while Heather continued compressions. By the time the first rescue unit arrived, the patient had a pulse and was starting to make noises indicating she was returning to consciousness. She was transported to the hospital and later made a full recovery. The quick actions of Officers Lloyd and Dobson undoubtedly saved the life of this young woman. The immediate application of CPR measures was necessary to return heart function. Afterwards, Heather made contact with the victim, who sincerely thanked the officers for saving her life.

Educational Achievements –

Captain Brian Layton, Patrol Division Commander, was selected to attend the 2014 session of the prestigious FBI National Academy. The 10-week course held July through September is designed to train leaders and managers of police and sheriff's departments, military police, and federal law enforcement agencies, and participation is by invitation only through a competitive nomination process. The mission of the Academy is "to support, promote, and enhance the personal and professional development of law enforcement leaders by preparing them for complex, dynamic, and contemporary challenges through innovative

techniques, facilitating excellence in education and research, and forging partnerships throughout the world.”

On November 7, **Detective Gloria Mejia** graduated from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond after completing the challenging nine-week course. Detective Mejia earned her competitive appointment to the Academy through her experience and demonstrated technical expertise in evidence collection. The topics covered during the course include: photography, crime scene investigation, 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.

Also in November, **Lieutenant H.D. Jones** graduated from the Professional Executive Leadership School, a three-week program conducted by the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation in conjunction with the University of Richmond. This excerpt from the PELS website explains: “This program is designed for individuals who currently serve in command or

executive level positions within their agencies. The curriculum is liberal-arts/humanities based and focused on the study of leadership at an advanced level. The objective of this program is to acquaint participants with best practices in leadership, challenge them to reflect upon their own leadership competency, and examine ways of achieving both personal and professional growth.”

Recognition from the Community –

In May, **Sergeant Josh Lynch** was selected as the Outstanding Officer of the Year from the Fraternal Order of Police due to his excellent work performance and overall record of effectiveness with his K-9 partner Max. In January, **Max** was [recognized with an award](#) from the Virginia Police Canine Association for one of their “cases of the year” for narcotics detection and patrol utility.



Also in May, **Officer Julie Keene** was recognized by the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board for her efforts to safely and positively resolve mental health crises and to support those individuals in recovery. During 2013, Officer Keene was involved in the largest number of transports to the [Crisis Stabilization Program at the Sunshine Lady House](#), an alternative to incarceration.

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training is a critical component of an officer’s experience and responsibilities. In 2013, city police officers served a total of 275 emergency custody orders and temporary detention orders. These orders are issued by a judge or magistrate for the purpose of detaining a person for a mental health evaluation due to behavior that indicates a mental health crisis. To proactively manage this aspect of law enforcement responsibility, a number

of Fredericksburg's officers have received 40 hours of specialized crisis intervention training to enable them to handle these encounters safely. On October 8, **Officer Corey Dobson** was recognized at the Rappahannock Area Community Services Board quarterly CIT meeting for his exceptional skill in handling a situation involving a mentally ill individual. The emergency services therapist who nominated Officer Dobson wrote about an occasion where the officer was at the hospital with a lady who was experiencing symptoms of psychosis. "She was agitated and uncooperative with the medical staff and members of emergency services. Officer Dobson remained calm, talked to the woman in crisis, listened to her and was ultimately able to calm her down. With high levels of empathy and active listening, he was able to get the woman to cooperate with the medical staff.

On September 9, **Lieutenant Bill Hallam** and **Officer Ryan Merrell** were recognized with Lifesaving Awards from the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) and the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation for their actions in rescuing a teenager from a house fire a year ago. From the VACP website: "Arriving first on the scene of a nighttime call for a fire engulfing a Fredericksburg home on September 17, Lieutenant Bill Hallam and Officer Ryan Merrell noticed a teenage female hanging out of a second story window with heavy smoke pouring out around her. With the sense of urgency mounting and with the Fire Department still on the way, Lieutenant Hallam pulled his patrol SUV under the window but the distance from the vehicle's roof to the window was still too great. Officer Merrell checked a neighbor's backyard to see if he could find a ladder and fortunately he was able to secure one. Officer Merrell positioned the ladder underneath the window and it was still about three feet short. The frightened victim refused to climb out of the window to try and reach the ladder. Lieutenant Hallam climbed to the top of the ladder, with Officer Merrell steadying it, and pulled the girl in a bear hug from the window and onto the ladder. The victim was swiftly brought to the

ground and safety. Due to the quick-thinking and bravery of Lieutenant Hallam and Officer Merrell, the girl was rescued and transported to the hospital for smoke inhalation injuries. She made a full recovery.” More information about this award and additional award recipients from Virginia can be found at [this link](#).



The Fraternal Order of Police, Rappahannock Lodge #15, also recognized Lt. Hallam and Officer Merrell with Awards of Valor for the bravery and tactical thinking displayed during this incident.

Officer Ryan Merrell was also recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his efforts to combat DUI offenses. Officer Merrell was responsible for 39 of the 243 of the DUI/DUID arrests made by the Fredericksburg Police Department in 2013. He accomplished these arrests while assigned to a regular

patrol squad where he was simultaneously responsible for answering calls for service and other policing duties. Additionally, Officer Merrell regularly volunteered to work overtime and special details focused on DUI interdiction and highway safety. Officer Merrell serves as an excellent example, showing that a regular patrol officer, tasked with a wide array of duties, can have a meaningful impact on highway safety through proactive DUI enforcement.



Retirements



Eddie Delano began his career with the Police Department in October 1983 as one of five new officers hired in preparation for the annexation of land from Spotsylvania County. He attained the status of veteran police officer in 1986 and during the span of his career he advanced through well-deserved promotions until reaching the rank of Captain in December 2013. Eddie served as the Assistant Detective Division Commander for four years and as the Internal Affairs Investigator. He provided vital and valuable services acting as the department liaison in town hall forums and to various civic groups. Eddie has integrity, kindness and composure regardless of the circumstances. He is genuinely well-liked.



1983: Eddie Delano, far right, is sworn in with other members of his Academy class.



Ken Sekuterski, or “Ski” began his career with the Fredericksburg Police Department in 1987 after serving in the U.S. Army and working as a Corrections Officer at the Rappahannock Regional Jail. During his law enforcement career, he was a member of the Special Equipment Tactical Team and served as a Narcotics Detective. Ken spent eight years as a School Resource Officer, ensuring that children attending city schools received an education in an atmosphere free of crime and the fear of crime.

A sincere note of appreciation is due to Mr. Robert A. Martin who contributed the majority of the photographs to this document.



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