



# Badges, Buckles, Belts & Beyond

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Back issues of the BBB&B Newsletter can be found at <http://www.smartsafeandsober.org>

## Transportation Secretary Mineta Announces Record Safety Belt Usage in the U.S.

Virginia reached a record high 80.4% usage rate during *Click It or Ticket* in May

A record 82 percent of Americans wear their safety belts while driving or riding in their vehicles, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta announced at the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) National Conference, in Washington, D.C.

According to a scientific survey by the DOT's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, between 2004 and 2005, 10 percent of non-users adopted the habit of buckling their safety belts, Mineta said.

"The fact that safety belts save lives is starting to click with the American people," Mineta said. "With safety belt usage at a record high 82 percent, we are on the road to a safer America. And today, we are closer than ever to reaching our final destination."

In the past five years, safety belt use has increased steadily from 71 percent in 2000 to 82 percent this year, he noted.

At a rate of 82 percent, Mineta said, safety belts are preventing 15,700 fatalities, 350,000 serious injuries, and \$67 billion in economic costs associated with traffic injuries and deaths every year. The increase in belt use over the past year alone has prevented 540 fatalities, 8,000 serious injuries, and \$1.8 billion in economic costs, he added.

The Secretary said the success was due in large part to states that have passed primary safety belt laws. Twenty-one states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have primary safety belt laws that allow police officers to stop a motorist solely for belt violations. South Carolina will become the 22nd state with a primary law that takes effect in December.

Secretary Mineta also noted that a new program developed by the Administration makes incentives available for states that pass primary enforcement laws or achieve an 85 percent safety belt usage rate for two consecutive years. The amount of the incentive will be almost five times of a state's annual base highway safety funding.

According to the NHTSA survey, primary law states averaged 85 percent belt use in 2005, compared to 75 percent in states with secondary laws, like Virginia.

Significant increases in belt use were documented in two categories targeted by NHTSA's "Click it or Ticket" campaign – pickup truck occupants and rural communities. Both increased an average of three percentage points from 2004.

The survey also measured motorcycle helmet use in the U.S. Between 2004 and 2005, the use of DOT-approved helmets dropped from 58 percent to 48 percent nationwide. Helmet use in states without mandatory laws was 37 percent.



**ONLINE**

### "Safety Belt Use In 2005: Overall Results"

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/RNotes/2005/809932.pdf>

### "Motorcycle Helmet Use in 2005: Overall Results"

<http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot/pdf/nrd-30/NCSA/RNotes/2005/809937.pdf>

# “How To” Digital Photo Workshops Attract Traffic Safety Officers from Across Virginia

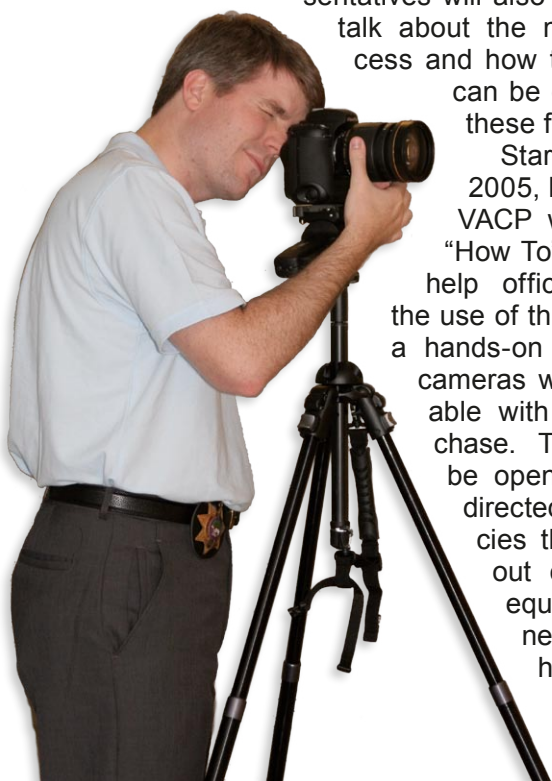
Over the last six months, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police (VACP) partnered with Fujifilm to offer eight “How To” digital photography workshops across the state. Targeting both beginner and advanced users, these classes were very well received with more than 190 participants statewide.

The series started at the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy in Salem, Virginia with two beginner classes and completed in October back in Salem with two advanced classes. Beginner and advanced classes were also conducted in Richmond at the State Police Academy and in Fairfax County at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy.

Penn Camera instructors highlighted the correct use of digital imaging for both the patrol officers on the road and the crime scene technicians. Participants were offered hands-on experiences with a wide range of camera equipment at the Fairfax classes and used the in-class LCD to review and critique their own photos during the class.

Penn Camera currently has a new **Law Enforcement Digital Camera Kit** available for purchase and will be hosting several “Show and Tells” across the state to introduce this new product. The “Show and Tell” sessions will include a hands-on demonstration with the products in the kit and will show officers how they can use the kit for their traffic safety/investigation needs. DMV representatives will also be on hand to talk about the mini-grant process and how this equipment can be obtained using these funds.

Starting in January 2005, Fujifilm and the VACP will offer more “How To” workshops to help officers maximize the use of this new kit, with a hands-on use of digital cameras workshop available with each kit purchase. This class will be open to all, but is directed toward agencies that want more out of their digital equipment and need some extra hands-on help with their new digital kit.



# **PENN CAMERA** **PROFESSIONAL**

LAW ENFORCEMENT & FORENSIC IMAGING



## **TRAFFIC SAFETY DOCUMENTATION KIT**

**\$1,500<sup>00</sup>**

Drivers are unpredictable. Penn Camera's Traffic Safety Documentation Kit is not. We give you the tools to get the job done, and get back on the road. Training for two people is included with the purchase of each kit.

### Kit Includes:

Fujifilm S20 Pro Digital Camera, PELICAN 1400 Equipment Case (Black), Promaster FTD 5750DX Speedlight, Promaster OFF-CAMERA CORD, Promaster Module 5000 STD W/PC Cord, Fujifilm 256mb XD Memory Card, Lexar Single Slot Multi Card reader, Promaster 6050 Tripod, Deluxe 12" Locking Cable release, Quantum QB1C Battery Pack, Quantum XDC2 Module, Quantum QB26 Battery Charger, Sirchie Steel measuring Tape, Sirchie Traffic Template, Set of 4 White Magnetic Evidence Scales, Universal Evidence Photo Stand, Giotto Lens Cleaning Kit, and training for 2 people with purchase of each kit!



**Fujifilm  
S20 Pro**



*According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration:*

*"In 2003, there were an estimated 6,328,000 police-reported traffic crashes, in which 42,643 people were killed and 2,889,000 people were injured; 4,365,000 crashes involved property damage only."*



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## Traffic checking details held at start of Labor Day weekend for ninth year

by Don Allen, Law Enforcement Liaison  
Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police

As part of Virginia's "Smart, Safe & Sober Campaign," members of law enforcement agencies from our neighboring states — Kentucky, West Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina — met for the ninth year with Virginia law enforcement officers to check traffic prior to the Labor Day weekend. The focus of the checking details — held September 1st from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at border locations in the counties of Giles, Wise, Buchanan, Frederick, King George, Pittsylvania, and the City of Chesapeake — was on seat belts, child restraints, equipment violations, speeding, and driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. This was a joint effort between Virginia and our border states to remind drivers of their responsibilities and to remove dangerous drivers and vehicles from our highways.

Officers trained to assist with the proper installation of child safety seats were available at most of the locations and assisted parents or caregivers with 77 proper seat installations for their children. Two safety seats were donated to needy children by police officers. Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement Officers were also at many of the locations and

checked large trucks for authority to operate, safety equipment violations, and overweight violations.

This year, 146 police officers from 36 different agencies participated. These officers, concerned with the high volume of traffic during the Labor Day weekend, came together in this high profile manner to remind motorists that they will enforce the law. The following arrests or summonses were issued during the three-hour checking detail:

- **Narcotics Violations: 5**
- **DUI/DUID Violations: 3**
- **Other Criminal Arrests/Violations: 28**  
(Suspended driver's licenses, fugitive arrests, etc)
- **Reckless Driving Violations: 1**
- **Speeding Violations: 29**
- **Child Safety Seat Violations: 8**
- **Seat Belt Violations (16+ years old): 32**
- **Seat Belt Violations (6–15 years old): 1**
- **Other Traffic Violations: 174**
- **Commercial Motor Vehicles —**
  - Equipment Violations: 24**
  - Overweight Violations: 9**
  - Removals: 9**



PHOTO CREDIT: BOB WALL, VACP



PHOTO CREDIT: DON ALLEN, VACP



PHOTO CREDIT: BOB WALL, VACP

(above) Buchanan County Sheriff Ray Foster checks the driver's license and vehicle registration card during the checking detail on Route 460 at the Virginia border with Kentucky. Two Kentucky State Police officers and a member of the Buchanan County Drug Task Force assist with the stop. A Buchanan County Deputy Sheriff and two Virginia State Police Troopers are checking other vehicles in the background.

(left, top) State Troopers from Virginia and West Virginia team up on a border checkpoint on Route 50 between Frederick County, VA and West Virginia.

(left, bottom) Virginia State Troopers conduct a commercial motor vehicle inspection at the VA/WV border check.

# Henrico Police Implement Teen Distracted Driving Campaign

## “Smart Drivers Just Drive” Asks Young Adults to Put the Brakes on Distracted Driving

(Sept. 13, 2005) Richmond, VA—In 2003, 174 traffic deaths on Virginia roads involved drivers age 15 to 20 years old, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). In an effort to reduce the number of youth motor vehicle fatalities, NHTSA has selected Richmond as one of six markets for Smart Drivers Just Drive, a new campaign created to educate young drivers about the dangers of distractions. NHTSA estimates that distracted driving is a factor in as many as one in four motor vehicle crashes.

“Richmond was selected to take part in the program because of its large population of young drivers, its size and geographic location,” said Sgt. D.L. Lambert. “NHTSA is providing the city’s strong presence of community organizations with materials to help spread the word about the dangers of distracted driving.” Additional cities selected to take part in the pilot program include Sacramento, California; Gainesville, Florida; Austin, Texas; Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and Springfield, Missouri.

According to NHTSA, distracted driving occurs anytime motorists take their attention away from driving. Based on research among young adults ages 17 to 20, common distractions include riding with friends, using cell phones, eating and tuning the radio. Other in-vehicle electronics can also cause distractions, such as CD players, navigation devices and DVD monitors.

“Smart Drivers Just Drive” encourages young drivers to visit [www.distracteddriving.org](http://www.distracteddriving.org), where students can share personal stories about how distracted driving has affected them, in addition to the lives of friends, family members and fellow motorists. They can also find posters, flyers, awareness activities and guidance for conducting a “Smart Drivers Just Drive” campaign within their own community.

The campaign is designed for partners such as youth health and safety organizations, local businesses and community groups to spread the word about the dangers of driving distracted. Partners can conduct a

DISTRACTED DRIVING STORY #118,952  
WHAT'S YOUR STORY? Tell us at [www.distracteddriving.org](http://www.distracteddriving.org)

**“We were on the phone.  
I guess he wasn’t paying attention to the road.  
I heard him crash.  
I think about it all the time.”**

Jennifer R. | Cincinnati, Ohio

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<p><b>DANGEROUS DISTRACTIONS:</b> TALKING ON THE PHONE</p>	<p><b>EATING</b> RIDING WITH FRIENDS</p>	<p><b>READING</b> APPLYING MAKEUP</p>	<p><b>CHANGING A CD</b> REACHING INTO THE BACK SEAT</p>	<p><b>TUNING THE RADIO</b></p>
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**smart drivers just drive** U.S. Department of Transportation  
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

“Smart Drivers Just Drive” awareness campaign by using sample news releases, media alerts, public service announcements, drop-in news articles and other tools available at [www.distracteddriving.org](http://www.distracteddriving.org).

“Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15 to 20 year olds, causing nearly one-third of all

deaths in this age group, continues Sgt. D.L. Lambert. “Distracted driving is potentially deadly behavior. ‘Smart Drivers Just Drive’ is providing young adults with information to make good decisions behind the wheel.”

**CONTACT PERSON:** Sergeant Don Lambert, (804) 501-4822

# Henrico County Police Conduct Several Special

## 4th of July Weekend

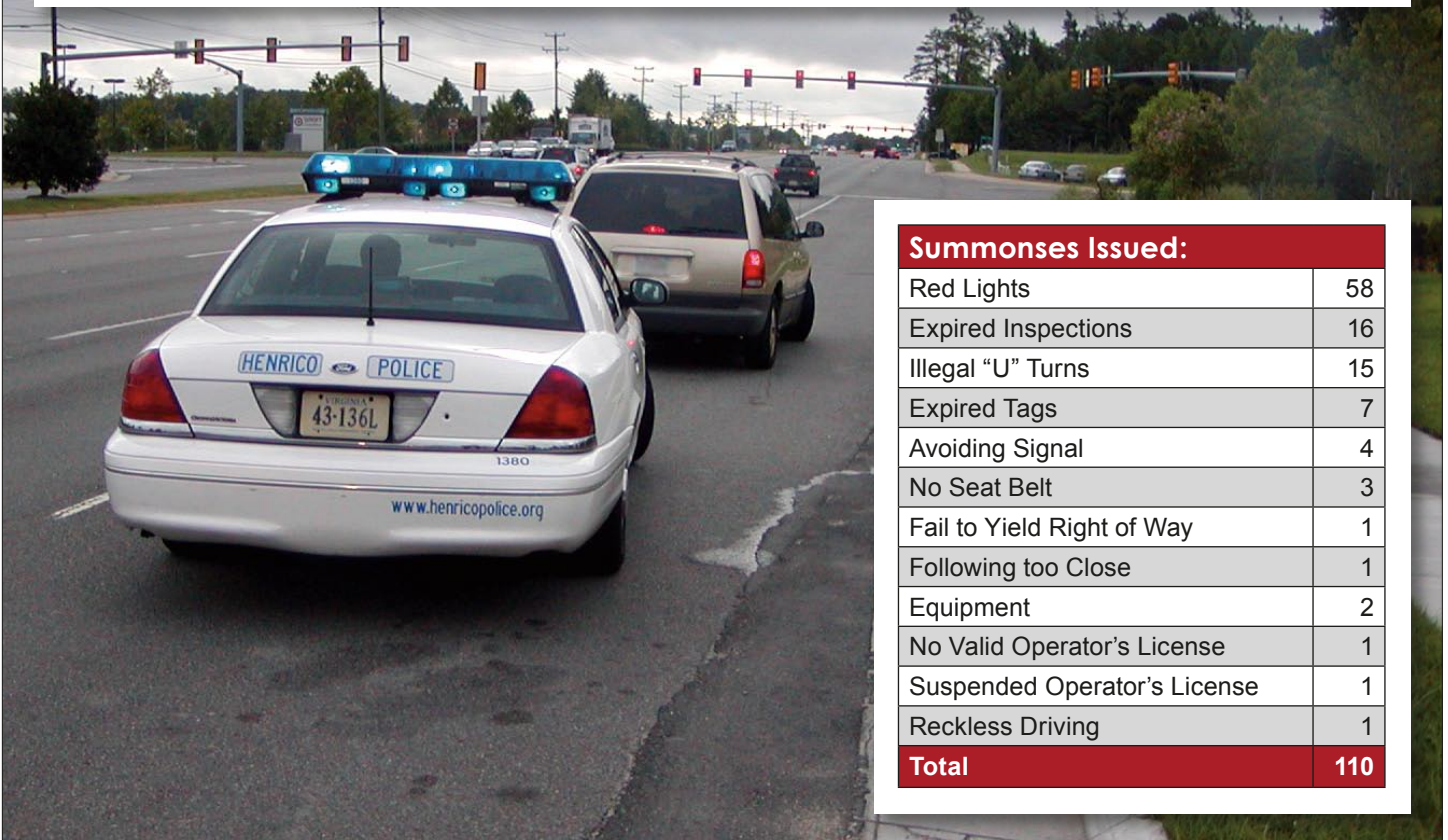
On July 1, 2005, 11 members of the Henrico County Police Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) and Uniform Operations conducted a sobriety checking detail on Williamsburg Road between Glen Alden Drive and Laburnum Avenue. This location was selected because a traffic analysis of the Top 10 traffic-crash locations showed a high number of the crashes along the Laburnum Avenue corridor were caused by or involved intoxicated drivers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration also lists the July 4 weekend as the “deadliest” holiday weekend because of injuries and deaths due to impaired drivers.

The following summonses were issued as part of the checking detail:

- 6 – Suspended operator’s license
- 1 – Reckless driving
- 8 – No operator’s license
- 6 – No operator’s license in possession
- 5 – Expired/No state inspection
- 2 – Child safety seat violations
- 1 – Defective equipment summons
- 4 – Expired/No County vehicle license
- 1 – Illegal left turn
- 1 – Disregarding a traffic signal
- 1 – No medical card while operating a commercial motor vehicle
- **36 – Total summonses issued**

## Stop on Red Week

(August 9- September 4) This past week, the Henrico County Division of Police kicked off the National “Stop on Red Week” Campaign with media coverage and heavy enforcement at various intersections throughout the county. The goal was to make drivers aware of the dangers of running red lights and to prevent crashes, which in turn would prevent injuries or deaths. Below you will find the results of the specials that were conducted by Uniform Operations, Special Enforcement Unit and Community Officers.



### Summonses Issued:

Red Lights	58
Expired Inspections	16
Illegal “U” Turns	15
Expired Tags	7
Avoiding Signal	4
No Seat Belt	3
Fail to Yield Right of Way	1
Following too Close	1
Equipment	2
No Valid Operator’s License	1
Suspended Operator’s License	1
Reckless Driving	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

# Enforcement Operations

## National School Bus Safety Week

Did you know each year more than 800 students are killed nationwide going to or from school? Many Henrico students walk to school, ride a school bus, or ride with another student or parent to and from school. Each year, we as a Division conduct high visibility enforcement in and around our school zones and bus stops to prevent injuries and fatalities from occurring. Our efforts during the second week of school in September not only educated the public about driving safely, but it also kept the children safe.

From October 17th through October 21st, the Henrico County Police recognized National School Bus Safety Week by conducting numerous school zone and bus stop specials all over the county. Lt. Doug Perry took care of the media blitz to get the word out about school bus safety. Officers from Community Services – Crime Prevention and SRO's conducted numerous programs that gave information on School Bus Safety for drivers, parents, and students. Officers from Uniform Operations, Community Policing, and Special Enforcement conducted high visibility enforcement in school zones and school bus stops throughout Henrico County. The following county schools were targeted in the enforcement:

- *Monday:* Adams ES & Highland Springs HS
- *Tuesday:* Dumbarton ES & Hermitage HS
- *Wednesday:* Tuckahoe MS, Ridge ES, & Freeman HS
- *Thursday:* Pemberton ES, Byrd MS, & Godwin HS
- *Friday:* Twin Hickory ES, Deep Run HS, Baker ES, John Rolfe MS, & Varina HS

Through high visibility enforcement and mere presence, we can make a difference in the lives of the students, parents, and school employees by keeping them safe in their comfort zones.



Summonses Issued:	
Speeding	91
Reckless Driving by Speed	7
Reckless Driving (Passing Stopped School Bus)	2
Seat Belt/Child Seat Violations	6
No Valid Virginia Operator's License	6
No Operator's License in Possession	3
Equipment Violations	5
No / Expired State Inspections	17
No / Expired County or State Registrations	9
Failure to obey highway signs	8
Suspended Operator's License	1
Reckless Driving	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>154</b>



# Word is out: Soon, 'police' will be patrolling the state waters

by Lee Graves

*The Richmond Times-Dispatch*

(September 25, 2005) You'll soon be seeing a new word on boats patrolling Virginia's inland waters.

It's sure to get your attention.

"Police."

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries boats currently say "game warden," and board members believe that's not a strong enough statement about who's enforcing the laws on the state's rivers, streams and lakes.

Col. W. Gerald Massengill, interim VDGIF director, said some people don't have a clear notion about game wardens and their roles, sometimes thinking of them as animal control officers.

"We need an officer that's recognizable by people as responsible for enforcing the law, and on our waterways I think that's extremely important," he said at Thursday's board meeting.

He requested the change as part of a redesign of the department's boats. Some of the impetus comes from a fatal boating accident on Smith Mountain Lake last month that spurred a meeting of more than 300 people in that area.

A Moneta couple and their dog were killed when a high-performance speedboat plowed into a cabin cruiser the night of Aug. 20. According to VDGIF officials, the speedboat was traveling at more than 60 mph; the operator, a 45-year-old marina owner on the lake, has been charged with involuntary manslaughter in the deaths.

Officials say alcohol also was involved, and Bedford County Commonwealth's Attorney Randy Krantz said other charges are pending.

The hundreds who filled Trinity Ecumenical Parish in Moneta earlier this month had more than the single incident on their minds. In the past five years, Smith Mountain Lake has accounted for more than 20 percent of all boating accidents in Virginia, according to VDGIF records. And it's not the busiest of the state's waterways.

Though emotions ran high at the Sept. 8 meeting, residents were sup-

portive of the department and its role in making boaters toe the line of the law, Massengill said.

One problem is that the department has no office on the lake, which spans 22,000 acres and is heavily developed. Patrols fall to nine wardens in the region, and for some getting to the lake means spending hours on the road.

To address that, Franklin County officials have offered a parcel of land across from Smith Mountain Lake State Park for the game department to use as an office site. Arrangements are still being worked out, but a regional office would increase visibility and help meet boating enforcement needs. The department has had to meet a mandate from the General Assembly to have at least one warden

patrolling the lake during daylight hours from the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day.

Part of the beefed-up design includes better equipment. A dozen boats will be equipped with radar through a grant from the Department of Motor Vehicles, said department spokeswoman Julia Dixon.

"That could be the beginning of outfitting our boats with more equipment," she said.

Radar will enable wardens to measure and document the speed of boats, a useful tool not only in improving safety but also in presenting evidence in court.

The newly equipped and redesigned boats should be ready for the 2006 boating season, Dixon said.



*On June 11, 2005, Virginia Game Wardens from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries conducted a boating under the influence (BUI) checkpoint on the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River in Chesapeake. This checkpoint coincided with the Harborfest 2005 fireworks celebration in the Norfolk Harbor and was intended to detect and deter the use of alcohol by recreational boating operators. Funding for this effort is provided by a Federal Highway Traffic Safety Grant and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.*

*Twelve Game Wardens participated in the checkpoint using 57 man-hours to conduct the 3-hour checkpoint operation. Twelve summonses were issued for various boating safety violations (life jackets, navigation lights, fire extinguishers, boat registrations, etc.) and two arrests were made for operating a motorboat under the influence of alcohol. Seventy-four boats were stopped at the checkpoint and a thorough safety inspection was conducted on each vessel and the operators of those vessels were screened for possible operation under the influence of alcohol.*



## Drivers, Use Caution to Avoid Hitting Deer

(October 21, 2005) The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) is encouraging Virginia's drivers to be more cautious as they travel the Commonwealth's highways this season. Fall is the breeding season for deer. Consequently, deer are more active now than any other time of the year. One-half to two-thirds of all deer/vehicle collisions occur in the months of October, November and December. While less than 1 percent of vehicle fatalities and injuries involve deer collisions in Virginia, hitting a deer can cause considerable damage to both people and property.

VDGIF estimates the population of white-tailed deer in the Commonwealth at this time of year to be approximately 900,000. The number has been stabilized at between 800,000 and one million for almost 10 years. Each year hunters in Virginia harvest over 200,000 deer. Without hunting, white-tailed deer, due to their reproduction rate, could double their population within five years.



The VDGIF recommends the following tips to drivers to avoid hitting a deer:

- 1) When driving, particularly at dusk and dawn, slow down and be attentive. If you see one deer, likely there will be others. If one deer crosses the road as you approach, others may follow.
- 2) Deer habitually travel the same areas; therefore deer crossing signs have been installed by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Use caution when you see these signs.
- 3) Drivers should apply brakes, even stop if necessary, to avoid hitting a deer, but should never swerve out of the lane to miss a deer. A collision with another vehicle, tree or other object is likely to be more serious than hitting a deer.
- 4) Any person who is involved in a collision with a deer or bear while driving a motor vehicle, thereby killing the animal, should immediately report the accident to the game warden or other law enforcement officer in the county or city where the accident occurred.
- 5) Drivers who collide with a deer or bear, thereby killing the animal, may keep it for their own use provided that they report the accident to a law enforcement officer where the accident occurred and the officer views the animal and gives the person a possession certificate.

## DMV Announces New Funding for Safe Routes to School Programs Throughout Virginia

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has announced the creation of a new mini-grant initiative for Safe Routes to School. Starting October 1, six of the DMV districts will receive \$2,500 each to be directed to organizations (non-profits, schools, PTAs, localities) to assist in planning and organizing activities related to Safe Routes to School. Maximum awards will be limited to \$500. The money is part of the transportation funds designated toward transportation safety programs.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is about kids walking and biking to school: regularly, routinely, and safely. Integrating education, encouragement, engineering and enforcement, Safe Routes to School is a multi-faceted program that impacts communities on multiple levels.

The program hopes to increase school-aged children's knowledge of pedestrian and bicycle safety by teaching safe behaviors that can be used throughout the children's lives as well as encourage physical activity as a regular, integral part of life in order to address the growing epidemic of obesity-related problems that affect America's youth.

Not surprisingly, a growing number of communities are embracing the SRTS concept. The program is designed to overcome traffic threats and "stranger danger" by involving parents, school administrators, and the children themselves to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing alternative.

By establishing the mini-grant program, DMV hopes to encourage communities across the Commonwealth to look into possibilities for creating a Safe Routes to School program in their schools.

For more information, please contact your DMV Community Transportation Safety Manager.



# 2005 Governor's Transportation Safety Awards Announced

(May 31, 2005) RICHMOND—Virginia's Transportation Safety Board recently honored individuals and organizations for their outstanding transportation safety contributions. The 12-member board advises the Governor, Secretary of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles Commissioner on transportation safety issues. The board develops and supports safety programs for all modes of transportation in Virginia.

## ***Lifetime Safety Achievement:*** **The Honorable William H. Leighty,** **Chief of Staff for Governor Mark R. Warner**

Leighty began working in the transportation sector in 1986 when Governor Gerald Baliles tapped him to be Deputy to the Secretary of Transportation and Public Safety. In 1990, Leighty became DMV's Deputy Commissioner for Transportation Safety during Governor L. Douglas Wilder's term. In 2002, Governor Warner appointed Leighty to serve as Chief of Staff where he has continued to be a driving force on issues in the transportation arena.

During his career, Leighty co-chaired the Task Force on Hazardous Materials Committee which established a statewide hazardous materials response team; created the Annual Conference on Transportation Safety (ACTS), an educational and discussion forum for industry professionals and advocates; and, was instrumental in many of Governor Warner's key pieces of legislation, including Governor Mark Warner's Agenda/Safe Highways for the 21st Century, an initiative that created transportation safety corridors, enhanced penalties for DUI offenders, stiffened punishment for under age drunk drivers, and authorized law enforcement to use laser detection.

## ***Aviation Safety:*** **Paul Werbin, Virginia Beach**

A Federal Administration Aviation Safety Counselor, Werbin serves as a consultant during statewide aviation safety seminars conducted by the Virginia Department of Aviation. Werbin also helps solidify community support for program funding by enlisting local businesses and community leaders.

## ***Employer Safety Award:*** **Naval Safety Center, Norfolk**

The Naval Safety Center, an arm of the Department of Defense, offers safety education programs and training to military personnel. Following an increased number of deaths of military personnel who were killed while operating their own private vehicles, the center launched several new traffic safety programs, produced a quarterly safety magazine and formed ties with community safety partners.

## ***General Traffic Safety:*** **Christiansburg Police Department**

Public awareness campaigns about traffic safety, community partnerships and strict enforcement are a few tools that the department uses to reduce the number of highway crashes. The Christiansburg Police Department also requires that all uniformed patrol officers receive four hours of occupant protection, aggressive driving and impaired driving training to aid their enforcement efforts.

## ***Impaired Driving:*** **William "Bill" McCollum, Virginia Beach**

McCollum's 28-year career with Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) began when he joined the organization in Portsmouth as a staff member. McCollum was appointed by former Virginia Governors Baliles and Wilder to serve as VASAP's Executive Director of the Commission, a role he filled until his October 2003 retirement. During his tenure, he oversaw several hundred volunteers and employees who provided free intervention strategies for approximately 30,000 drinking and driving offenders annually.

## ***Law Enforcement:*** **MPO Gregory Deeds, Harrisonburg Police Dept.**

A 16-year veteran of the Harrisonburg Police Department, Deeds currently serves in the Special Operations Unit as a Motor Traffic Officer. In this role, he coordinates participation in statewide and national safety campaigns such as Checkpoint Strikeforce and None for the Road. To create a safe community using multi-jurisdictional strategies, Deeds' spearheaded the City and County Traffic Task Force.

## ***Legal:*** **Charles Sharp, Commonwealth's Attorney,** **Fredericksburg**

A public safety advocate, Sharp worked for new drunk driving laws at the Virginia General Assembly. He participated on Governor Warner's Task Force to Combat Drunk Driving and was appointed to the Virginia State Drug Court Advisory Board. A well respected legal professional, Sharp promotes holding alcohol and drug offenders accountable for their dangerous behaviors - all while encouraging offenders to seek treatment for their substance abuse problems.

### **Media: K92 Radio, Roanoke**

To encourage teen safety belt use, K92 Radio and Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) launched a campaign targeting students from 45 schools in the Southwest and Central Virginia region. After surveying hundreds of students about their safety belt habits, a Save Your Tail-gate, Buckle Up! challenge was launched and promoted on the air. The station's employees distributed "Buckle Up!" decals during live remotes at high school football games, among other promotional activities. The campaign reached an estimated audience of more than 385,000.

### **Motorcycle Safety: David Hepburn, Fairfax**

A Motorcycle Program Manager at Northern Virginia Community College, Hepburn serves as a Chief Instructor for DMV's Virginia Rider Training Program in Northern Virginia. This course gives motorcycle enthusiasts the opportunity to learn new techniques and practice skills in a safe and controlled environment. Hepburn has educated hundreds of students about Virginia laws and rules of the road related to motorcycles.

### **Motor Carrier Safety: Harrisonburg Police Dept. – Motor Carrier Unit**

The Harrisonburg Police Department is the only municipal police department in the Shenandoah Valley that has a Motor Carrier Unit. Officers in this unit, who are certified to conduct inspections in addition to their regular patrol duties, partner with DMV's Motor Carrier Services staff monthly to perform motor carrier checkpoints. These specialized police officers have the expertise to use DMV's mobile scales and other tools to determine the legal size and weight of commercial motor carrier vehicles. Additionally, officers deliver safety presentations to trucking companies and city public works employees.

### **Occupant Protection Safety: Sgt. Doug Childress, Lynchburg Police Dept.**

Childress initiated and implemented a joint-jurisdictional seatbelt enforcement campaign along the 460 corridor for Southwest and Central Virginia, including areas extending from Suffolk to the West Virginia line in Giles County. The comprehensive operation earned the well-received campaign name, "saturation patrol." Childress also is a President of the Central Virginia Traffic Safety Board and a member of the Blue Ridge Transportation Board.

### **Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety: Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation, Charlottesville**

The Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation is a regional non-profit network dedicated to promoting balanced transportation options. One of the group's major initiatives is the Safe Routes to School program, a national effort to improve the health of kids and communities by encouraging walking and biking as healthy lifestyle choices. The organization developed pedestrian education lessons for school children, conducted walk-to-school events and created a map of safe routes for local parents.

### **Public Transportation Safety: Virginia Railway Express (VRE), Alexandria**

To keep the nation's tenth largest commuter railroad safe and secure, VRE unveiled a 2004 customer safety campaign named Commuter Awareness for Safe Travel (CAST). The program educates and engages riders to ensure a safe and secure commute. The campaign is an extension of VRE's other security initiatives such as the undercover officer program, random canine bomb searches and security patrols.

### **Rail Safety: Jeff Dodd, Roanoke**

A Norfolk Southern employee for more than 20 years, Dodd's primary responsibility is to write and produce employee safety training videos. His creative productions encourage more than five thousand employees to remain alert and attentive at all times on the freight rail system. Two of Dodd's videos won awards during the 2004 Videographer Awards Competition.

### **Water Safety: James Crosby, Crozet**

A current member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Crosby spearheaded the establishment and commission of a Coast Guard Auxiliary Search and Rescue Detachment on Lake Anna - one of the state's largest lakes. A certified boat handler and master boating instructor, he regularly teaches boating safety classes that have been attended by hundreds of students. Crosby is the author of a column, On the Water, for the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries magazine, Virginia Wildlife. More than 40 of his articles have focused on water safety.

### **Youth Traffic Safety: Youth Driver Task Force, Stafford**

In response to a significant spike in teen traffic fatalities and crashes, the Youth Driver Task Force was established by Stafford's Board of Supervisors in 2004. Its mission was to perform a comprehensive review of Stafford's highway safety conditions, including intersection design, teen driver education and law enforcement and judicial issues. Task Force members committed hundreds of hours of their personal time rallying the community to find solutions to a preventable trend.

# Harrisonburg Police Motor Carrier Unit Receives Awards

by MPO Greg Deeds  
Harrisonburg Police Department

On May 19, 2005 Harrisonburg Police received the Governor's Transportation Safety Award for Motor Carrier Safety. The Unit also received top honors in the Virginia and National Law Enforcement Challenge for motor carrier safety, sponsored by the IACP.

With the growing concern with truck safety at the national and local level, particularly on Interstate 81, Harrisonburg Police established a two-man motor carrier unit utilizing their two motorcycle officers in 1997. Today Harrisonburg has 8 officers federally certified to perform motor carrier inspections. The Unit's Officers are also available to the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office as well as the six town police departments located within the county through the Harrisonburg / Rockingham County Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement. Harrisonburg Motor Carrier Officers are often called upon to give safety talks and updates to local trucking companies and city public works personnel.

Harrisonburg Police takes pride in the fact it's the only municipal police department in the Shenandoah Valley that has a Motor Carrier Unit with Officers specially trained in driver, vehicle, size and weight inspections.

The Harrisonburg Police Motor Carrier Unit holds monthly Motor Carrier Checkpoints, inviting State Police Motor Carrier Inspectors to participate as well as DMV Motor Carrier Services Personnel. Harrisonburg Officers who are certified also do inspections as part of their regular patrol duties.

The partnership with DMV Motor Carrier Services has enabled Harrisonburg Motor Carrier Officers to perform more comprehensive inspections. Harrisonburg Officers utilize DMV mobile scales, IRIS van and their technicians to assist them in size, weight and safety inspections in checkpoint operations.

The IRIS Technology has improved highway safety & increased efficiency of Motor Carrier Officers during the inspection process. The Infrared Inspections System (IRIS) uses a camera mounted atop a van to detect trucks and trailers with defective brakes, under inflated tires, or leaky exhaust systems.

The establishment and expansion of this unit is the continuing commitment of the Harrisonburg Police Department to the Smart, Safe, & Sober Safe Communities Campaign.



*The Harrisonburg Police Department was awarded 3rd place in their category in the Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge. They were also recognized with awards at the state and national levels for their efforts in commercial motor vehicle safety.*

## On the Front Lines

by Cpl. Andy Muncy  
Rockingham Co. Sheriff's Office

**M**aster Police Officer Greg Deeds, a 17-year veteran with the Harrisonburg (Va.) Police Department, was recently awarded the Commonwealth of Virginia Governor's Transportation Safety Award in the category of Law Enforcement in May of 2005. Officer Deeds was selected by the Virginia Transportation Safety Board, comprised of citizens appointed by the Governor, among other law enforcement personnel throughout the Commonwealth. Officer Deeds' selection was based on his extra initiative to promote and encourage transportation safety within his community during 2004.

The diligent work of Officer Deeds — being involved in transportation safety issues and working countless hours on- and off-duty trying to make a difference by improving safety in the Commonwealth — is impressive. This award demonstrates the appreciation for those committed to transportation safety and highlights the achievements of a deserving Virginian. To be nominated for one of these awards is a top achievement and speaks highly of his work. To actually win one of these awards is indeed a true honor.

"Throughout my career I've been recognized by several local organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and recently,

by receiving the Regional MADD / ASAP Outstanding Service Award for reducing drunk driving in Virginia. For a Virginia traffic officer, the Governor's Transportation Safety Award is really the Academy Award. When you put on your badge and uniform everyday you don't think about getting awards for the thing you love to do," Deeds said.

Over the years, Officer Deeds' grant writing skills have contributed tens of thousands of dollars from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and the Virginia Department Health for equipment and officer overtime for the Harrisonburg Police and the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office to perform traffic safety activities. Hundreds of child safety seats and bicycle helmets have also been distributed to the public due to Deeds' efforts.

The Harrisonburg / Rockingham County areas have experienced an explosion of traffic volume followed by complaints from the citizens of the City of Harrisonburg as well as Rockingham County. Deeds says, "I like helping citizens with their traffic complaints and concerns on a one-on-one basis and coming up with solutions to their problems without trying to pass the buck to other departments or law enforcement agencies.

"I strive to think outside the box when it comes to transportation safety. My personal goal as a police officer is to provide a superior level of police service and reintroduce a comprehensive and consistent enforce-



ment practice in an identified problem area of our community. I believe it's important to keep the public's faith in the police, thus improving the quality of life for those citizens I swore to protect and serve when I started in police work 17 years ago."

Every year thousands of people die on our roadways for various reasons. Although Deeds' duties are many at Harrisonburg Police, it's safe to say that the Harrisonburg and the Rockingham County community is a safer place to live and commute due to his efforts in the area of transportation safety.

"I really look forward to going to work everyday," Deeds said, "Lets face it, not too many people can say they ride a Harley Davidson motorcycle for a living!"

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## A Success Story...

**Mr. Butch Letteer, DMV —**

Let me begin with a thank you for accepting and allowing our police department to participate in the Checkpoint Strikeforce exercise. It was accepted well within the university and police administrations, and we received great support.

I will have the required form completed in the next day, but due to the level of excitement our uniformed officers have, I felt it was necessary to inform you as soon as possible.

The checkpoint on July 15th, began promptly at 2350 hours. It was secured at 0408 hours. 371 motor vehicles entered the checkpoint, with 67 motor vehicles directed to the checking area for numerous reasons. The checkpoint was closed once, at 0103 hours, but quickly resumed at 0105 hours. The reason for closure was due to a personnel matter. (There was a lack of uniformed officers performing checks.)

The checkpoint netted nineteen arrests:

- **13 D.U.I.'s**
- **3 Possession of marijuana**
- **2 Open containers of alcohol**
- **1 Obstruction of justice**

Over forty traffic summons were issued for license, registration, and equipment violations.

This checkpoint was completed with only 12 uniformed V.C.U. officers, and 7 troopers from Virginia State Police.

It was a great success based upon the manpower and the extra hard work these fine officers did. I am very proud to have coordinated this effort, and proud of each uniformed officer that participated.

In addition, the Checkpoint Strikeforce program and the checkpoint itself was released to the media early in the week before the checkpoint. On the day of the checkpoint, I was notified by personnel that numerous local radio stations, including K95, Q94, WRVA, and Power 92, made announcements regarding the checkpoint. The Richmond Times-Dispatch wrote a very small column in the Metro section of the July 15th edition, announcing the checkpoint.

Television coverage was provided by WRIC. Ms. Rochelle Dean did a story before the checkpoint, and provided footage of the checkpoint while it operated on Saturday morning and evening newscasts.

I thoroughly believe we exceeded the demands of the grant.

I look forward to operating another checkpoint under this grant in the near future, of course with your help. Again, thank you for all your help and assistance.



**Corporal J. P. Atkins**  
**V.C.U. Police**  
**Patrol Division - Midnight Shift**



*David Culler, Sun Badge Company, presented Chief Bill Hodges, West Point Police Department, his new badge for winning the 2003 Clayton J. Hall Memorial Award. Each West Point Officer will receive a new badge from Sun Badge acknowledging their accomplishment as the "Best of the Best" in highway safety.*

*Recently, Chief Hodges attended the 2005 IACP Conference in Miami and presented the 2004 Clayton J. Hall Award to the Mount Carmel (TN) Police Department. "I was deeply honored to be asked to give this award to the 2004 winner," said Chief Hodges. "All of the officers in West Point know what this award means to our department and community and we will wear these new badges with honor as we continue our traffic safety activities."*

## VACP Welcomes New Member of Traffic Safety Staff

The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police is happy to announce that Suzanne Ellyson has joined the organization as Project Director for the traffic safety programs. Suzanne previously was the Assistant Director at DRIVE SMART Virginia, where she was instrumental in their traffic safety education and enforcement support efforts.

As Project Director, Suzanne will provide creative support for the *Badges, Buckles, Belts & Beyond* newsletter and the Smart, Safe & Sober calendar. She also will aid in planning and preparation for Law Enforcement Challenge Program, Border to Border Program and traffic safety related training and enforcement events. Suzanne also will be working with our traffic safety partners to help coordinate the Click It or Ticket and Checkpoint Strikeforce enforcement campaigns.

“Suzanne comes to the VACP with a wealth of knowledge about traffic safety, and we know that she will be a tremendous asset to our traffic safety programs,” said Dana Schrad, VACP Executive Director. “She already is well acquainted with what we are doing, and she has a real passion for promoting traffic safety in Virginia.”

Suzanne can be reached at the VACP offices at 804-285-8227 ext. 17, or by e-mail at [Suzanne@vachiefs.org](mailto:Suzanne@vachiefs.org).



PHOTOS BY BUTCH LETTEER, DMV

On October 20th during the 2005 Fall Recognition and Awards ceremony held at the Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center in Chesterfield County, Frank Kowaleski from VACP and MaryAnn Rayment and Butch Letteer from DMV presented six Saved By the Belt & Bag Awards. Those recognized were,

- **Ms. Shannon Malone and Mrs. Stephanie Giggetts** (pictured above left), whose vehicle rolled over when struck in an intersection by a driver who failed to stop for a stop sign;
- **Ms. Patricia Angle and Miss Callie M. Angle** (pictured above right), whose vehicle was also struck in the side by a driver failing to stop for a stop sign (both air bags deployed in the crash); and
- **Mr. William Allen and Mrs. Judith Allen** (not pictured), who were struck head on by a driver.

The Chesterfield County Police Department is a strong contributor to the Saved by the Belt & Bag program, regularly nominating individuals for recognition.



**Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership**  
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**On the web — <http://www.smartsafeandsober.org>**

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