

# Smart, Safe & Sober



NEWSLETTER

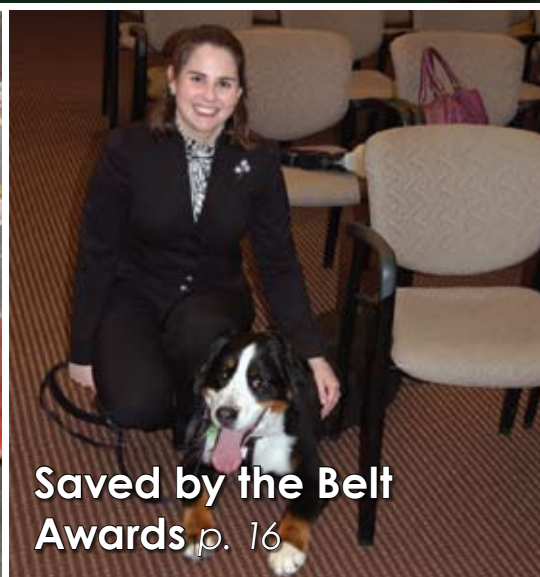
SPRING 2010

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# Smart, Safe & Sober

## NEWSLETTER

The *Smart, Safe & Sober Newsletter* (formerly known as *Badges, Buckles, Belts & Beyond*) is published quarterly for Virginia's transportation safety community by the Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership.

The Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership is comprised of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and DRIVE SMART Virginia.

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Articles, announcements of events, short recaps of agency activities with photos, etc. are all accepted on a regular basis for publication in the next scheduled issue.

### PREVIOUS ISSUES

Back issues of the newsletter can be found at [www.smartsafeandsober.org/news](http://www.smartsafeandsober.org/news). Click on "SS&S Newsletter" on the left.

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Contact Erin Schrad, VACP Communications Manager (see above) with any address corrections or mailing list changes.

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# 2009 Law Enforcement Challenge Workshops Give Agencies the Inside Track on the Competition

During January and February, 2010, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Highway Safety Office once again held a number of Law Enforcement Challenge workshops across the Commonwealth. This year, eleven workshops were offered to assist Virginia law enforcement agencies with assembling their 2009 Law Enforcement Challenge entries.

Virginia Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Liaisons Don Allen and Frank Kowaleski conducted the workshops that were attended by more than 100 individuals from nearly 60 agencies — both rookies and veterans alike. Attendees learned about the Challenge program and its benefits and received information on changes that have been made to the National and Virginia Challenges for 2009. The instructors provided the attendees with tips on how best to assemble their applications in order to earn the most points possible and also gave them advice on changes they could implement in their agencies this year to be in a better position for the 2010 Challenge. Attendees were also informed about related national highway safety awards programs that they could apply for, such as the Looking Beyond the License Plate Awards and Vehicle Theft Awards of Merit.

In addition to going over the Law Enforcement Challenge program and application process, the instructors also took the opportunity to go over some new information and statistics from the Highway Safety Office and talk about the different awareness and enforcement campaigns that agencies can participate in. Finally, the video “Saving Lives . . . One Stop At A Time”, which was produced by the IACP Highway Safety Committee, was shown at several of the workshops to illustrate the importance of highway safety enforcement to law enforcement as a whole.



Virginia agencies have consistently done well in the National Challenge and, together, often bring home more awards than those from other states. This national success is due in large part to these workshops and the personal assistance the LELs provide each of the participating agencies outside of the workshops. In 2009, 51 Virginia agencies competed in the 2008 Virginia & National Law Enforcement Challenges, 16 of which won awards in the National Challenge — the second most award winners of any state.

**2009 Law Enforcement Challenge Awards applications are due April 15, 2010 to the VACP.** For more information on the Challenge Awards program, go to <http://www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/LEC>.

# Law enforcement were out in force this St. Patrick's Day to ensure motorists didn't "press their luck" by drinking and driving

## Virginia State Police Applaud Northern Virginians For Not Testing Their Luck On St. Patrick's Day By Drinking and Driving

FAIRFAX CO. — As the Virginia State Police Fairfax Division saturated the interstates of Northern Virginia Wednesday afternoon into early Thursday morning, it appears a majority of St. Patrick's Day revelers chose not to drive drunk. During the special enforcement effort a total of six drunken driving arrests were made.

The 12-hour stepped-up St. Patrick's Day enforcement campaign also yielded 61 speeding citations, 32 reckless driving citations, six seatbelt citations, 1 child safety seat citations, and more than 200 additional citations for equipment and other violations. State police also assisted 47 motorists.

"It is encouraging to see such a low number of DUI arrests resulting from a concentrated enforcement operation on the night of a holiday known for drunk-driving crashes and fatalities," said Captain Tracy Russillo, Virginia State Police Fairfax Division Commander. "Unfortunately, a significant number of drivers instead tried to test their luck on violating HOV regulations."

During Wednesday afternoon's High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) enforcement blitz on Interstates 95, 395 and 66, Virginia State Police cited 236 HOV violators. Troopers utilized both moving and stationary enforcement methods to ensure compliance of HOV restrictions.

Motorists who violate HOV laws face the following fines:

- First offense is a \$125 fine
- Second offense is a \$250 fine
- Third offense is a \$500 fine
- Fourth offense is a \$1,000 fine



Drunk Driving. Over the limit. Under Arrest.

## Bristol Police

The Bristol Police Department conducted a stepped-up enforcement effort for the St. Patrick's Day holiday that began at 6:00 p.m. on March 16 and ran until 6:00 a.m. on March 18. Here are the results:

DUI	2
Felony Eluding	1
Suspended/Revoked Driver	1
Safety Belt Violation	1
Speeding	13
No Valid Drivers License	1
Equipment Violation	7
Intoxicated in Public	1
Other Traffic Violations	10
Other Misdemeanors	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>

## Virginia Beach Police Arrest Nine for DUI

Police arrested nine motorists on charges of drunken driving Wednesday night and early Thursday morning during a series of St. Patrick's Day checkpoints designed to snag intoxicated drivers.

Officers issued 188 summonses at three safety checkpoints this year for offenses, including 36 for speeding and 48 for seat belt violations and 2 for child seat violations. Nine summonses were issued to motorists driving on a suspended license or without a license. Officers also made three felony arrests — one habitual offender, one drug violation and one probation violation — and four misdemeanor arrests — two for possession of marijuana, one for an open container and one for failure to pay child support.

VBPD's Special Operations Traffic Division conducts the checkpoints.

The City's "Do Not Tow" program also was in effect for the St. Patrick's Day holiday in an effort to keep drunk drivers off the roads. Individuals that parked their vehicles in one of the Municipal Parking Lots located at 2nd, 4th, 19th, 25th streets or Rudee Loop were allowed to leave their vehicles there overnight without penalty if they believed they had too much to drink to drive home.





## Albemarle County Police

On Wednesday, March 17, 2010, the Albemarle County Police Department conducted a traffic safety checkpoint on Mill Creek Drive in front of the Monticello Fire Department in southern Albemarle County. The checkpoint was in place from 5:23 – 7:30 p.m.

A total of 832 cars came through the checkpoint and 50 were pulled for further screening and evaluation. Officers issued a total of 44 traffic summonses, of which 25 were for inspection related violations, 8 were for registration violations, 6 were for drivers having no operator's license, 2 were for drivers having a suspended license, 2 were for defective equipment, and 1 was for a driver failing to obtain a Virginia license.

Additionally, one custodial arrest was made for possession of marijuana with the intent to distribute.

The checkpoint was a partnership operation with the Albemarle County Sheriff's Office. A total of 11 officers and 3 deputies participated in the checkpoint.

ACPD officers also conducted DUI saturation patrols during the evening and made one DUI arrest as a result of a speeding violation. The arrest occurred on Richmond Road (U.S. Rt. 250) near Black Cat Road (Rt. 616).



## Front Royal Police

The Front Royal Police Department conducted a checkpoint on St. Patrick's Day and had approximately 120 vehicles come through. Only 5 violations were observed — 2 inspection violations, 1 no valid operator's license, 1 registration violation, and 1 child restraint violation.

The department also conducted saturation patrols all weekend, which were successful. There were 2 DUI arrests, 1 refusal, 1 open container, 28 speeding violations, 1 possession of marijuana, 1 felony assault on a police officer, and 17 other violations.

Officer Don Orye also installed 3 car seats during the period and conducted interviews with the local TV and radio stations, discussing DUI patrols, crash statistics, and penalties for a DUI arrest.



## Henrico County Police & Richmond Police

On St. Patrick's Day, the Henrico County Division of Police held two checkpoints: one at the intersection of I-64 and Glenside Drive and the other, which was held in conjunction with the City of Richmond Police Department, at the city/county line on Main Street near Rocketts' Landing.

At the joint checkpoint, Henrico Police checked cars headed in to the city while Richmond Police checked cars headed in to the county from 9:00 p.m. until midnight. After midnight and until 2:00 a.m., Richmond checked cars going both directions.

Richmond Police also arranged for billboards in 7 locations around the city to display impaired driving awareness messages from March 8 through March 18.



Citations/Arrests	Joint Check at Rocketts Landing		Checkpoint at Glenside & I-64
	HENRICO	RICHMOND	HENRICO
DUI / DUID	0	1	2
Reckless Driving	--	--	1
Suspended/Revoked O.L.	1	10	13
No Valid Operator's License	1	1	19
No O.L. in Possession	--	--	12
Registration Violation	3	1	16
Equipment Violation	2	2	12
Inspection Violation	2	2	18
Possession of Marijuana	2	1	2
Seat Belt / Child Restraint	1	0	14 / 2
Fail to Obey Signs	--	--	2
Improper Backing	--	--	2
Stolen License Plates	--	--	1
Wanted Suspect Apprehended	1	--	--
Concealed Weapon Arrest	--	1	--
Felony Habitual Offender	--	1	--
Outstanding Warrants Served	--	--	5
Other	3	0	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>128</b>

## Roanoke Police

On St. Patrick's Day, Roanoke Police held a checkpoint in the 1700 block of Orange Avenue. Then, on the following weekend, officers conducted saturation patrols. Here are the results:

Citations/Arrests	3/17 Checkpoint	3/19-3/20 Patrols
DUI / Underage Drinking	4 / 0	6 / 1
Suspended/Revoked O.L.	8	8
No Valid Operator's License	7	10
Reckless Driving	0	2
Seat Belt / Child Seat	0	12 / 2
Improper U-Turn	8	0
Speeding	1	28
Drug Charges	2 (Poss. of marijuana)	1
Open Container Violations	0	6
Felony Arrests	0	1
Other	10	44

## Chatham Police

On March 15 from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., the Town of Chatham Police Department held a checkpoint on Route 29 for the St. Patrick's Day holiday. Five officers participated and a total of 608 vehicles were checked. Here are the results:

Violation	Warning	Summons/Arrest
Safety Belt Violation		3
Suspended/Revoked Driver		1
No Valid Drivers License		1
Vehicle Registration	2	2
Vehicle Inspection		2
Equipment Violation	3	
Other	6	1 (traffic)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>

## Harrisonburg Police

More than 1,000 drivers passed through three checkpoints in Harrisonburg during a special St. Patrick's Day enforcement effort, and while police found just one drunk driver, they did issue citations for several other violations.

Dozens of drivers were found to be behind the wheel without their license and several were also caught driving on suspended licenses. Police also found 11 minors in possession of alcohol.

Twenty-five officers participated in the operation.



300 Block Vine Street (18:15 – 20:00 Hrs.) — 547 Vehicles Passed Through Checkpoint		
5 Driving on Suspended License	8 Expired / No City Decals	<b>62 Total Traffic Charges</b> <b>0 Criminal Charges</b> <b>15 Verbal Warnings</b> <b>11 Vehicles Towed</b>
9 No Operator's License	8 Defective Equipment Violations	
6 No O.L. in Possession	1 No Insurance	
7 Expired Registration	2 Illegal U-turn	
1 Improper Registration	1 Disregard Stop Sign	
6 Inspection Sticker Violations	1 Booster Seat Violations	

1500 Block of Devon Lane (20:00 – 22:00 Hrs.) — 210 Vehicles Passed Through Checkpoint		
3 Driving on Suspended License	2 Expired Inspections Stickers	<b>21 Total Traffic Charges</b> <b>4 Criminal Charges</b> <b>5 Verbal Warnings</b> <b>0 Vehicles Towed</b>
3 No O.L. in Possession	3 Expired Registrations	
1 F.T. Obtain VA O.L.	1 Expired / No City Decals	
7 Defective Equipment Violations	4 Underage Possessions of Alcohol	
2 Child Seat Violations		

University Blvd / Driver Drive (22:45-00:00 Hrs.) — 318 Vehicles Passed Through Checkpoint		
1 Suspended / 1 Revoked	1 Child Seat Vilation	<b>47 Total Traffic Charges</b> <b>15 Criminal Charges</b> <b>18 Verbal Warnings</b> <b>4 Vehicles Towed</b>
2 No Operator's License	2 Seat Belt Under 16 yoa	
1 Learner's Permit Violation	2 Reckless Driving	
1 Allow Unlicensed Person to Drive	4 Illegal U-Turn	
1 Learner's Permit Violation	9 Defective Equipment	
1 Motorcycle Endorsement Violation	1 Taxicab Violation	
1 DUI	1 DIP	
4 Expired Registration	7 Underage Possessions	
5 Expired Inspection Sticker	2 Open Container	
3 Expired / No City Decal	1 Possession Marijuana	





## Over 500 SoberRides Provided On St. Patrick's Day

(March 18, 2010) WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Washington-metropolitan area's SoberRide program provided 525 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers this St. Patrick's Day.

Provided by the nonprofit Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), the St. Patty's Day SoberRide program began on St. Patrick's Day at 4:00 pm and continued until 4:00 am Thursday, March 18 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

"For SoberRide's hours of operation this St. Patrick's Day, this translates into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways every 82-seconds," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's President.

Last night's ridership figure represents a 30-percent increase in SoberRide ridership from last year's (2009) St. Patrick's Day offering (403 > 525 rides) according to WRAP.

During SoberRide's 12-hour period this St. Patty's Day, area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1 – 800 – 200 – TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to a \$ 50 fare), safe way home. AT&T wireless users could call # - TAXI for the same service. Local taxicab companies throughout the Washington-metropolitan area provided this no-cost service to local residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking.

SoberRide was offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Maryland counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of this year's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide offering included Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Diageo, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

In addition, nine of the Washington-metropolitan area's better-known Irish restaurants also united to ensure a safe St. Patrick's Day celebration this year by sponsoring SoberRide. These dining establishments included: Daniel O'Connell's Restaurant (VA); The Dubliner Restaurant & Pub (DC); Fado (DC); Irish Channel Restaurant (DC); Irish Inn at Glen Echo (MD); Kelly's Irish Times (DC); Martin's Tavern est. 1933 (DC); Murphy's Grand Irish Pubs (DC & VA) and Sine Irish Pub (VA).

Participating taxicab companies included: Alexandria Yellow Cab; Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Founded in 1982, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 48,338 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).



### Pulaski Police

On St. Patrick's Day, the Pulaski Police Department had two officers working special enforcement. The breakdown of the citations issued are as follows:

#### Citations

- 1 – Expired registration
- 1 – Fail to obey highway sign (speed limit)
- 1 – No OL in possession

#### Written Warnings

- 5 – Defective equipment
- 1 – Speeding





# Ashland Police Hold Event to Educate Local College Students About the Dangers of Drinking and Driving

On Friday, March 5, 2010 from 12:00 pm – 4:30 pm, the Ashland Police Department hosted a Safe and Sober Driving Event at Randolph-Macon College to kick-off their “Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving” and “Checkpoint Strikeforce” St. Patrick’s Day impaired driving awareness and enforcement campaigns.

This event was also held in conjunction with Randolph Macon College’s “Spring into Safety Campaign” and was sponsored by the college’s Residence Life Office, Office of Alcohol and Drug Prevention, and Campus Safety Office.

Ashland police officers and a representative from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) were on hand to educate drivers about the dangers and consequences of driving while impaired. Participants wore Fatal Vision® goggles while maneuvering a golf cart through traffic cones to simulate the effects that alcohol has on a person who operates a motor vehicle under the influence. Officers also conducted field sobriety tests on the participants after they completed the driving course.

Many students came by to participate in the event as well as some members of the faculty. Reporter Shelby Brown from the local CBS station, WTVR 6, also came by to cover the event. She interviewed the students and an Ashland officer and then she put on the goggles and took a turn on the course herself.

Also during the month of March, the Ashland Police Department conducted a sobriety checkpoint in an effort to remove impaired drivers from the roadways. NHTSA statistics show that, in 2008, there were 134 crash fatalities on St. Patrick’s Day. Out of that number, 50 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.



## Albemarle County Police Conduct Safety Checkpoint

Albemarle County police issued 19 tickets to motorists as part of a two-hour traffic safety checkpoint Thursday afternoon, March 11 at the intersection of Gordonsville and Klockner roads.

Police issued 10 summonses for state inspection violations, two for driving on a suspended license, two for registration violations and one for driving without a valid operator’s license. An additional four tickets were issued for large trucks that were over length, in violation of restrictions for that part of Gordonsville Road.

A total 473 vehicles went through the checkpoint.



# Virginia State Police Launch Facebook Page

Department joins other local law enforcement agencies from across the state, country in adoption of social media to help solve crimes



In less than 24 hours, more than 800 people were notified that Virginia State Police are still searching for the person responsible for the 1996 disappearance and murder of Alicia Showalter Reynolds. Within another 24 hours, that number was in excess of 3,000. And so it goes in the world of the online social media networking site Facebook.

Virginia State Police launched an official Facebook page on March 1, 2010, with the hopes that "fans" will aid with solving crimes, tracking down fugitives and locating missing persons. The site also features Department press releases, traffic safety tips, YouTube links, other agency links



and a calendar of upcoming traffic safety campaign and enforcement initiatives. State police also hopes to utilize the site for recruitment.

"We have been in awe of just how fast the Facebook page has caught on with folks," said Colonel Steve Flaherty, Virginia State Police Superintendent. "This site provides us with an immediate communications channel to keep social networkers around the world informed of what state police are doing to make Virginia's communities and highways safer."

Featuring the Alicia Showalter Reynolds case has generated some new tips and information for investigators. Reyn-

olds was the 25-year-old graduate student who was abducted in Culpeper County March 2, 1996. Her body was found miles away two months later.

State police launched an agency YouTube site in April 2009. Plans were in the works to launch the Facebook page March 1, 2010, which just so happened to correspond with the 14th anniversary of the Reynolds investigation.

The site does allow fans to post comments on postings and updates provided by state police. So far, the majority of comments have been very positive and the site well received. The state police page is a three-month pilot project being managed by its Public Relations Office.

Find VSP on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VirginiaStatePolice>.



## 2010 Winter Storms Have VSP Digging Out Motorists... and Blue-and-Grays

During the January and February snowstorms of 2010, Virginia State Police statewide responded to 25,861 calls for service and information, including 6,310 traffic crashes and 5,777 disabled vehicles. In addition, a total of 11 troopers were struck by out-of-control vehicles on the slick Interstates. Troopers and dispatchers worked extended shifts to keep up with calls. Troopers even found themselves having to dig out their Area Offices and vehicles in order to report to work.

Fortunately, the majority of those struck were seated inside their patrol cars at the time of the crash and no one suffered serious injuries. A Sergeant suffered only minor injuries when a carport in Fluvanna County caved in on his vehicle and crushed in its roof.



**TOP LEFT:**  
A Sergeant's vehicle in Prince William County.  
**TOP RIGHT:**  
Troopers dig out their Area Office in Loudoun County during the Feb. 9-10 blizzard.

# Augusta County Sheriff's Office Goes Digital



The Augusta County Sheriff's Office has recently added a new and exciting capability for its traffic enforcers: electronic ticketing. With the adoption of this technology, the Augusta County Sheriff's Office has become the first county jurisdiction — and the first Sheriff's Office — in the Commonwealth of Virginia to implement electronic ticketing.

E-ticketing allows deputies to use computer devices in the patrol car to create an electronic version of the Virginia Uniform Summons. Once the deputy "runs" a subject or a vehicle on his



Sergeant James "Monty" Sellers prints an E-Ticket during a traffic stop.

mobile data terminal, the information received from the Department of Motor Vehicles is automatically populated into the citation, eliminating the requirement for hand-written multiple copies. The deputy then simply selects the appropriate court date and violation code on the mobile data terminal.

The deputy then saves the record and prints a hardcopy of the completed summons on a Panasonic printer that is installed in the patrol car and provides the violator with a copy of the summons and instruction sheet. Once the summons is issued, the information is electronically transmitted to the Sheriff's Office's in-house records storage system (OSSI Pistol) and to the Virginia Supreme Court, which sends the summons to the appropriate district court for subsequent adjudication. The deputy then retains the "original" copy of the summons which the violator signs for submission to the courts.

The primary advantages of e-ticketing include:

- Eliminating human error from hand-written tickets.
- Immediate population of data into the local RMS system and statewide LInX system.
- Paperless transmission of ticketing date to the courts.
- Significant time savings gained by the elimination of redundant manual data entry of citations into Pistol by services personnel.

There are currently 18 Augusta County patrol cars outfitted for e-ticketing, and the Sheriff's Office hopes to receive additional grant funding in the future to equip the entire fleet with Mobile Data Terminals and e-ticketing.

# Bristol Police Department Receives Anti-Terrorism Grant

By David McGee, Staff Writer  
*Bristol Herald Courier*

BRISTOL, Va. — City police learned Wednesday that their department will receive the largest slice of a \$4.9 million state anti-terrorism grant.

The city department is scheduled to receive \$335,000 from the state Department of Homeland Security, according to a statement from Gov. Bob McDonnell. Forty-five police departments and sheriff's offices statewide will share the grant.

Locally, the money will be used primarily to supplement the department's bomb squad and special weapons tactical team, police Maj. Greg Baker said.

"We're real excited about it," Baker said. "We certainly couldn't purchase this much equipment with our present budget situation. And this will be a boon for the citizens of Bristol because we'll have even more capabilities."

By comparison, larger cities such as Newport News, Norfolk, Roanoke, Charlottes-

ville and Lynchburg are each due to receive between \$285,000 and \$302,000 each.

"My understanding is the grants are based on need. We have the only bomb squad on this end of the state.

So if there was something of a terrorist nature somewhere in Southwest Virginia, we would have to respond," Baker said.

About half of the city's grant is dedicated to buying for the SWAT team a new armored vehicle that is resistant to chemical, biological, radiation and other types of attacks, Baker said.

The money also will be used to buy new protective equipment for team members and additional training.

The department's bomb squad also is slated to receive additional training and equipment through a portion of the grant.

The balance will be used to buy license plate readers, devices mounted inside police cars used to scan vehicle plates in search of stolen cars or people facing

criminal charges.

Baker said the department plans to convert its current SWAT van into a crime scene investigation unit, replacing a truck that is in poor condition.

Law enforcement agencies from across the state filed requests for the money.

Proposals were submitted through the governor's office to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The grants were issued by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, according to the statement.

"The foremost obligation of government is public safety," Gov. Bob McDonnell said in the statement. "It is critical that all localities have the tools they need to protect citizens from threats to their communities."

The grants are the latest installment in a plan to "fill gaps" for local law enforcement agencies, the governor said.

Around the region, sheriff's offices in Scott, Washington, Wise and Wytthe counties are each scheduled to receive \$17,000.





# Photosafe Red Light Cameras Reduce Red Light Running in Virginia Beach

Early indicators support a change in driver behavior at each of the Virginia Beach red light camera enforced intersections. This assessment was made based on data collected during the first six months of camera operation (March 13 to Sept. 30, 2009).

The following examples compare the number of violations captured by the systems during the first week of operation to the number of violations occurring during the week of Sept. 30:

- **Kempsville Rd at Indian River Rd**  
65.15% reduction from 66 to 23 weekly violations;
- **Holland Rd at Rosemont Rd**  
59.51% reduction from 205 to 83 weekly violations;
- **Great Neck Rd at Virginia Beach Blvd**  
69.15% reduction from 830 to 256 weekly violations;
- **Princess Anne Rd at Dam Neck Rd**  
66.66% reduction from 111 to 37 weekly violations.

These figures are based on the processing of 27,407 captured red light running violations that were reviewed by PHOTOSafe Officers from March 13 to Sept. 30, 2009.

Of those reviewed, 19,319 (70.48%) were accepted, resulting in 13,987 fines and 5,341 warning letters. Warning letters are sent to violators during the first 30 days of the cameras being activated at each intersection.

Of the reviewed violations, 8,088 (or 29.52%) were rejected by officers for various reasons to include safe right turns on

red; unreadable license plates and vehicle obstructions; and authorized emergency vehicles — ambulances, fire trucks, police cars using lights and siren. As of Sept. 30, \$280,119 in civil fines has been collected. These figures are expected to change as warning periods expire, violations continue to decline and a long term financial trend develops.

Crash analysis data over this period is not yet available and will be performed by the Virginia Beach Department of Public Works, Traffic Engineering Division. Mike Shahsiah, traffic engineer in charge of this project, states, "An early indication of data comparison will be available in the Spring of 2011 comparing 2008 (no cameras) to 2009 (cameras were installed throughout the year) to 2010 (a full year with cameras in operation)."

He adds, "The best assessment of data will be available in the Spring of 2013 comparing 3 years of no cameras (2006, 2007, 2008) to 3 years of having cameras in operation (2010, 2011, 2012)."

Larry Caldwell, Assistant State Traffic Engineer who oversees the photo red program states, "VDOT's role in the process is to ensure that the code of Virginia is being met with regard to selecting intersections for camera placement. We are encouraged by the significant reductions in red light running violations at these locations reducing the potential for serious angle crashes. Additional time is needed to gather the crash data for a before versus after camera installation comparison and



**RED Means Stop**

we look forward to reviewing the crash data when it becomes available."

Chief A.M. Jacocks, Jr., stated that, "I'm pleased with the results of the PHOTOSafe program, and proud to be the first city in Virginia to install the program under the new law. We believed from the start that driver behavior would be affected in a positive manner, resulting in a decrease in violations, and early figures prove that to be the case. Our goal is and has always been to save lives and reduce injuries at intersections where statistics indicate red light running is a major contributing factor to right angle crashes."

Virginia Beach expects to activate the last of their 20 City Council approved systems at the intersection of Baxter Road and Independence Boulevard in November. The PHOTOSafe Program will utilize cameras in the enforcement of red light running at 13 Virginia Beach intersections. A list of the intersections can be found at [www.VBgov.com/photosafe](http://www.VBgov.com/photosafe).

For more information, contact PhotoSafe Coordinator MPO Brian Walters, (757) 385-7235, [bwalters@vb.gov](mailto:bwalters@vb.gov)

## Stafford County Sheriff's Office Receives Grant

STAFFORD, Va. — Governor Bob McDonnell has announced that the Stafford County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a \$302,000.00 Homeland Security Grant. The funds from this grant will be used to purchase an Incident Response Vehicle as well as a License Plate Recognition Reader. The State Homeland Security Program provides funds to help build capabilities at the state and local levels through training, exercise activities and purchase of needed equipment. Potential recipients and equipment needs were identified through an analysis conducted by local law enforcement leaders, the Virginia Sheriff's Association and the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police.

\$250,000.00 of the grant will be used to purchase an



Incident Response Vehicle (armored personnel carrier), that will be housed in Stafford County. This vehicle will be available to all area law enforcement agencies to assist them if needed. The License Plate Recognition Reader will be used to scan license plates to determine if the vehicle in question is on the Terrorist Watch List. The Reader can also be used to identify stolen vehicles or wanted individuals. "I am pleased that we received this State Homeland Security Grant," states Sheriff Charles E. Jett. "This equipment will be able to assist the Stafford County Sheriff's Office as well as the other local law enforcement agencies in our efforts to ensure that our communities are safe."

# Report Shows How Safe Routes to School Initiatives Protect Children Walking and Bicycling

(December 15, 2009) BOULDER, Co.—The Safe Routes to School National Partnership has released a new national report showing how Safe Routes to School programs can be harnessed to keep children safe from traffic dangers while walking and bicycling to school. Entitled, “**Safe Routes to School: Putting Traffic Safety First — How Safe Routes to School Initiatives Protect Children Walking and Bicycling**”, the report explores the approaches five different communities used through Safe Routes to School to create safer environments for children walking and bicycling.

The five communities (Santa Rosa, CA; Miami-Dade County, FL; state of ME; Springfield, MO; and Portland, OR) each demonstrate how Safe Routes to School evaluation, education, encouragement, enforcement, and engineering can address traffic safety concerns. Many of these safety improvements are made at relatively low costs to communities and schools, yet have profound effects on keeping children safe while also improving physical health and the environment.

This report demonstrates there are many different approaches to improving safety for children walking and bicycling:

- In Santa Rosa, CA, after children received pedestrian safety education, there was a 63 percent increase in children using the crosswalks to cross the street rather than crossing at unmarked locations.
- In Miami-Dade County, FL, since the launch of the WalkSafe™ child pedestrian safety program in 2001, there has been a 43 percent decrease in the total number of children ages 0-14 hit by cars.

- An analysis comparing bicycle crash rates in Maine for the eight years before their Bicycle Safety Education Program was implemented (1992 to 1999) with the first eight years the program has been offered (2000-2007) reveals a 51 percent drop in bicycle crashes for children aged 10-14.
- Springfield, MO has already demonstrated the impact special roadway signage can have on vehicle speeds. Data from their pilot showed that 85 percent of motorists reduced their speeds by three to five miles per hour without any increase in enforcement after speed limits were reduced from 30 mph to 25 mph.
- Infrastructure improvements in Portland, OR have been successful in helping decrease crashes, as well as the severity of the crashes. Total crashes decreased by nearly 25 percent and there was a 32 percent decline in pedestrian injuries from crashes.

Deb Hubsmith, Director of the Safe Routes to School National Partnership noted, “The success stories in this report show the power and promise of Safe Routes to School to help communities all across the country to address safety risks and improve conditions for students walking and bicycling to school.”

In 2007, an estimated 14,000 children ages 14 and under were injured as pedestrians, while more than 300 children were killed while walking. In 2008, an estimated 52,000 bicyclists were injured in motor vehicle crashes, and 21 percent of those bicyclists—nearly 11,000 children—were age 14 or younger. Children walking and bicycling to school represent 11 percent of injuries and fatalities during the school commute, but just 14 percent

of trips and less than two percent of miles traveled. Transportation for America also recently released a report, “**Dangerous by Design**”, identifying the dangers that pedestrians face in 360 metropolitan areas and focusing on solving the epidemic of preventable pedestrian deaths through active transportation. Safe Routes to School programs can provide tangible solutions to major traffic safety issues such as these, making it safer for children—and other residents—to walk and bicycle in their neighborhoods and to and from school.

Congress launched the federal Safe Routes to School program in 2005 through the federal transportation bill and provided \$612 million for five years of state-level implementation of programs that build sidewalks, bike lanes, and pathways, while also providing funding for education, promotion, and law enforcement. Federal Safe Routes to School funds are educating children on safe bicycle and pedestrian practices, increasing traffic enforcement to improve adherence to traffic laws and speed limits, and making infrastructure improvements to create safe places for children to walk and bicycle. The report can be viewed at [www.saferoutespartnership.org](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org).

*The **Safe Routes to School National Partnership**, hosted by the non-profit Bikes Belong Foundation, is a network of more than 400 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, schools, and professionals working together to advance the Safe Routes to School movement in the United States. The Partnership focuses on building partnerships, changing policies, advancing legislation, and improving the built environment.*



## FURTHER READING & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

“**Safe Routes to School: Putting Traffic Safety First — How Safe Routes to School Initiatives Protect Children Walking and Bicycling**”:

[http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/media/file/Safety\\_report\\_final.pdf](http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/media/file/Safety_report_final.pdf)

“**Dangerous by Design**”: <http://t4america.org/resources/dangerousbydesign/>

**Virginia SRTS State Network**: <http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/state/366582/virginia#program>

**Virginia SRTS State Program**: <http://www.virginiadot.org/saferoutes>





# Nearly 700 in DC Area Use SoberRide on New Year's Eve

## December's total SoberRide ridership posts record numbers

(January 1, 2010) WASHINGTON, D.C. — Six hundred and ninety-two (692) persons in the Washington-metropolitan area used the free cab ride service, SoberRide, last night (New Year's Eve) as opposed to possibly driving home drunk.

"This level of ridership translates into SoberRide removing a would-be drunk driver from Greater Washington's roadways **every 42-seconds** last night," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, President of the Washington Regional Alcohol Program, the McLean, Virginia-based, non-profit organization conducting the region's SoberRide effort.

Last night's SoberRide use represented a 48-percent (47.86%) increase from such last (2008) New Year's Eve (468 > 692).

WRAP's most recent holiday SoberRide offering — which concluded at 6:00 am this morning after kicking-off and running nightly since December 11, 2009 — provided a record high 3,178 total, free cabs rides to local

residents age 21 and older who otherwise may have attempted to drive home after drinking (and surpasses WRAP's December 2002 then record of providing 2,731 total Holiday SoberRides home).

This most recent holiday SoberRide program operated between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am each evening over this nearly three-week period as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday time. During that period, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol could call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$ 50 fare), safe way home. (AT&T wireless customers could call #-TAXI for the same service.)

Since 1993 alone, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 47,813 free cab rides to would-be impaired drivers in the Greater Washington area.

SoberRide was offered in the: District of Columbia; throughout the Mary-

land counties of Montgomery and Prince George's; and throughout the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William.

Sponsors of the 2009 Holiday SoberRide campaign included Anheuser-Busch, AT&T, Diageo, Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, GEICO, Giant Food Inc., Red Top Cab and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association.

Participating cab companies included: Alexandria Yellow Cab, Barwood; Fairfax Yellow Cab; Loudoun Yellow Cab; Manassas Cab Company; Red Top Cab; Silver Cab of Prince George's County; Yellow Cab of D.C.; and Yellow Cab of Prince William County.

Founded in 1982, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program is an award-winning public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region. Through public education, innovative health education programs and advocacy, WRAP is credited with keeping the metro-Washington area's alcohol-related traffic deaths consistently lower than the national average.

For more information, visit WRAP's web site at [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).



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## ODU's Dr. Bryan Porter Presents Seat Belt Survey Information

Dr. Bryan E. Porter, Associate Professor and Assistant Chair of Psychology at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, was the guest speaker during four of the five regional highway safety meetings held in the western part of the state during January, February and March.

Dr. Porter is a researcher and evaluator and is currently working with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to compile seat belt survey information for Virginia. He discussed both regional and statewide seat belt survey information that his staff compiled during 2009 at the meetings.

Dr. Porter was particularly interested in getting information and hearing opinions from those in attendance as to seat belt issues and concerns for 2010 and the upcoming May Click It or Ticket Mobilization. The seat belt usage rate for Virginia is currently 82.27% — our highest rate ever. With the 2010 May Mobilization, it is hoped that the rate will go even higher.

Seventy-eight police officers were in attendance at the four regional meetings, representing fifty-one different agencies. The four regional meetings that Dr. Porter spoke at were held in Lebanon, Wytheville, Winchester, and Danville. The fifth meeting was held in Verona.





# Danville Police Recognize Eleven Officers for Traffic Safety Efforts

On March 4, 2010 at a ceremony in the City Council Chambers, Danville Police Chief Philip Broadfoot recognized eleven of his officers for their traffic safety enforcement efforts in 2009. The officers who wrote the most speeding citations, seat belt citations, child safety seat citations, and DUIs in each quarter were recognized.



*Back row, l. to r.: Officer John Foster, Officer Derek Lancaster, Cpl. David Austin, Officer Barry Sossoman, Officer Joshua Walcott, Officer Jimmy Godfrey, and Chief Philip Broadfoot. Front row, l. to r.: Officer Jeremy Williams, Cpl. Ronald McCormick, Officer Jackie Garrett, and Officer Matthew Walker.*

## First Quarter 2009

Corporal David Austin (110 speeding citations)  
 Officer Jimmy Godfrey (16 seat belt citations)  
 Officer Eugene Kearns (10 child seat citations)  
 Corporal Ronald McCormick (6 DUI's)

## Second Quarter 2009

Officer Jackie Garrett (71 speeding citations)  
 Officer Jeremy Williams (12 seat belt citations)  
 Officer Eugene Kearns (12 child seat citations)  
 Officer Jeremy Williams (9 DUI's)

## Third Quarter 2009

Officer Derek Lancaster (88 speeding citations)  
 Officer John Foster (23 seat belt citations)  
 Officer Matthew Walker (6 child seat citations)  
 Officer Joshua Walcott (6 child seat citations)  
 Officer John Foster (5 DUI's)

## Fourth Quarter 2009

Officer Joshua Walcott (93 speeding citations)  
 Officer Joshua Walcott (25 seat belt citations)  
 Officer Joshua Walcott (8 child seat citations)  
 Officer John Foster (8 child seat citations)  
 Officer Barry Sossoman (9 DUI's)

## Henrico Police, Univ. of Richmond Police Hold Joint Checkpoint

On December 11, 2009, Henrico Police officers assisted the University of Richmond Police Department with a sobriety checkpoint at the intersection of River Road and College Road. The detail began with a joint operational briefing at the University of Richmond Police Department Headquarters. Approximately 620 vehicles were checked during the operation.

A total of 54 traffic and criminal arrests combined were made during the operation. The following is a detailed list of the specific charges that were placed during the checking detail:

- 3 – Seat Belt Violations
- 18 – State Inspections
- 8 – License Plate
- 6 – Equipment
- 7 – No Operator's License
- 2 – Suspended OL
- 4 – No OL in Possession
- 1 – No Taxi Manifest
- 1 – Improper Backing
- 2 – Stopping in Roadway Creating a Hazard
- 1 – Possession of a Suspended OL
- 1 – Possession of Marijuana

## Henrico's Holiday Enforcement Effort — "Operation Trinity" — Successful for Holiday Shoppers

"Operation Trinity" was a combined effort by the Special Enforcement Unit and Tactical Services Unit of the Henrico County Division of Police to provide high visibility patrol on Friday and Saturday nights through the holidays. The goal was to make the roads safer for holiday travelers and shoppers.

The operation consisted of 400 staff hours being committed to Friday and Saturday nights from Thanksgiving weekend through Christmas Eve to make the roads safer for the shoppers. The hours of operation were 4:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight each weekend. 176 of those 400 hours were supplemented with DMV grant money for speed and impaired driving enforcement.

### **"Operation Trinity" Results:**

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| • 2 – Misdemeanor arrests                  | • 1 – Personal injury crash worked  |
| • 2 – Driving Under the Influence arrests  | • 4 – Property damage crash worked  |
| • 9 – Driving on suspended/revoked license | • 2 – Fatal crash worked            |
| • 111 – Radar summonses                    | • 6 – Other crashes worked          |
| • 78 – Lidar summonses                     | • 39 – Calls for Service, Primary   |
| • 188 – Non-Radar summonses                | • 40 – Calls for Service, Secondary |
| • 1 – Parking summons                      |                                     |
| • 1 – Crash summons                        |                                     |

**Total arrests/summonses: 392**



All across the Commonwealth, law enforcement agencies recognize individuals from young to old, even some in their own ranks, who were involved in a traffic crash and, because they were wearing a safety belt or were in a child safety restraint, their injuries were reduced or their lives were saved. Here are the stories of just some of the individuals who were recognized during the first quarter of 2010:

During a special awards ceremony at the Salem Police Department on March 2, 2010, Virginia Highway Safety Office LEL Don Allen and Salem Police Chief Jeff Dudley presented **Ms. Hazel Lee Tucker** with the Saved by the Belt Award.

Mrs. Tucker was traveling west on Texas Street near the Civic Center in Salem on November 11, 2009, when the driver of another vehicle became unconscious and their vehicle crossed the yellow lines of the roadway into the path of Mrs. Tucker's vehicle, hitting her head-on. According to Salem Police Officer Blake Critz, the investigation officer, Mrs. Tucker would have sustained serious injury had she not been wearing her seat belt at the time of this crash.

Mrs. Tucker also received a highway safety travel bag from Chief Dudley and a Saved by the Belt coffee mug from Don Allen.



On February 1, 2010, Virginia Highway Safety Office LEL Don Allen presented **Virginia State Police Trooper Frank R. Farthing** with the Saved by the Belt Award.

Trooper Farthing was involved in a crash on July 7, 2009 at 4:45 pm on US Rt. 19 & 460 in Tazewell County when a semi-trailer changed lanes in the path of Trooper Farthing as he was operating his personal vehicle. Farthing, in an attempt to avoid collision with the semi, ran off the road and struck an embankment, overturning numerous times. Sergeant Gary Radcliff stated that if not properly belted, Trooper Farthing would have been ejected from his vehicle.

Trooper Farthing received serious injuries in the crash and was flown to Bristol Regional Hospital by the VSP Med-Flight. After recovering from his injuries and returning to work, Don Allen presented the award to Trooper Farthing at the Area 28 Claypool Hill Office.

On January 11, 2010, Virginia Highway Safety Office representatives Doug Stader and Don Allen and Dayton Police Chief Donald Conley presented **Ms. Stormy Dale Fauls** with the Saved By The Belt Award during the regular monthly meeting of the Dayton Town Council.

Ms. Fauls was involved in a crash on August 8, 2009, when a semi truck ran a red light and struck three vehicles at the intersection of Route 42 and Huffman Drive within the town of Dayton. Officer Shaun McDaniel stated that, had Ms. Fauls not been properly restrained using her seat belt system, she would have been seriously injured in the crash. Officer McDaniel stated that the driver of a second vehicle struck by the semi was ejected from the vehicle due to non use of the seat belt system.



*The Saved by the Belt & Bag Program is open to any law enforcement agency regardless of affiliation with the VACP. Nominations for individuals who were involved in traffic crashes and were wearing safety restraint devices are being accepted. You may download the application from the Smart, Safe & Sober web site — [www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/sbbb.php](http://www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/sbbb.php).*





On March 16, 2010, Portsmouth Police Chief Ed Hargis and Virginia Highway Safety Office representatives Mary Ann Rayment and Frank Kowaleski presented Saved by the Belt Awards to **Ms. Jean Marie W. Bentley** and her three-year old Bernese Mountain Dog, Isabella — a first for the program.

Ms. Bentley was driving in Portsmouth on April 28, 2009 when her vehicle was hit in the front, causing the air bags to deploy. Her dog, Isabella, was secured by a canine seat belt, which saved Isabella from injuries and kept her contained while emergency responders attended to Bentley, according to a summary from Detective John Doyle, a police spokesman.

Bentley suffered a broken right arm in the crash, Doyle said, but credits the seat belts — and in Isabella's case, a canine belt — and air bags for saving their lives.

"Secure our pets. They are like our family, but moreover, secure any passenger that is in the vehicle, whether it's a two-legged or four-legged kind," said Maryann Rayment with the Va. Highway Safety Office.

Bentley says she's used a canine belt since Isabella was six months old.

On January 12, 2010, Newport News Police Chief Jim Fox and Dwight Jenkins from the Virginia Highway Safety Office presented four Saved by the Belt Awards — three of which were to the department's own officers:

**Officer Robert A. Harris** was driving South on Jefferson Avenue, a 45-mph roadway, when a vehicle driven by a citizen failed to yield to Officer Harris's marked patrol unit while entering onto Jefferson Avenue. Officer Harris was wearing a seat belt at the time of the collision and his airbag did deploy. Officer Harris sustained non-life threatening injuries; he was transported to a local are hospital and was released. Due to his injuries he is currently on light-duty. If not for the airbag and seat belt, Officer Harris may have sustained life-threatening injuries or been killed upon impact. His vehicle collided head-on with a pole after colliding with the civilian vehicle.

**Assistant Chief Joseph A. Moore** (*not pictured*) was stopped at a red light at Jefferson Avenue & Thimble Shoals Boulevard in his 1998 Ford Crown Victoria when a 2002 Dodge Stratus, traveling at approximately 25 mph, failed to come to a complete stop and struck Chief Moore's vehicle from behind. Upon impact the Dodge Stratus drifted backwards approximately 10 feet. Chief Moore was wearing a lap and shoulder belt, but the air bag did not deploy. Based on the impact and damage caused to the Dodge Stratus, Chief Moore might have sustained facial, cranial and upper torso injuries had he not had his seat belt on. The safety restraint did what it was supposed to do, thus preventing injury to Chief Moore.

On February 13, 2009, **Officer William H. Soule** was operating a marked police unit with lights and siren in use en route to an emergency call. A vehicle failed to yield for an emergency vehicle and struck Officer Soule head-on. The estimated speed at impact was 30 MPH. Officer Soule was wearing his seat belt and the airbag did deploy. Officer Soule did sustain minor injuries from the air bag deployment, but had he not been wearing his seat belt, he possibly could have suffered severe head and chest trauma. Officer Soule's diligence in using his seat belt prevented him from suffering possibly catastrophic injuries, and retained a valuable resource for the police department: Officer Soule himself.

On April 30, 2009 a vehicle traveling south on Jefferson Avenue crossed into the northbound lanes and struck **Ms. Christie Henretta's** vehicle head-on at approximately 50 MPH. Ms. Henretta was traveling north on Jefferson Avenue at 45 MPH at the time of impact. She suffered multiple fractures to both of her legs and to her left hand as a result of the crash; however, she was wearing her seat belt and her air bag did deploy. There is no doubt that if Ms. Henretta had not been wearing her seat belt and didn't have an air bag, she would have possibly suffered greater injuries, and possibly death. The offending driver also was wearing a seat belt and had an air bag, but suffered a medical emergency as a result of the crash and died.

"People do not survive head-on collisions," the 32-year old Hampton resident said. "I'm happy to be alive."

"I think about (the crash) daily," she said. "I thank God every day."





## Saved by the Belt & Bag Awards, continued:

On Thursday, March 18, 2010, Colonial Heights Police Chief Jeff Faries and Virginia Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Liaison Frank Kowaleski recognized **Alan Little and his son, Ethen**, with Saved by the Belt Awards for making the truly life-saving decision to buckle up last August.

On August 8, 2009, the pair had pulled out of the Sheetz on Conduit Road in Colonial Heights and were proceeding through the intersection when their Ford Focus was hit on the passenger side by a red-light runner. The force of the collision knocked the Littles' car on to its side where it then slid across the intersection and into another vehicle.

Ethen had to be revived at the scene and was then taken by Med-Flight to VCU/MCV Medical Center where he spent 5 days. Alan was taken by ambulance to the same hospital and spent four days there.

Sergeant Thomas C. Kifer said the conclusion of CHPD's Major Accident Investigation Team was that, "had they not had their seat belts on, it's very likely that, as the vehicle started to roll over, one or both of them may have been ejected from, or at least partially ejected from, one of the windows."

"We were really lucky," said Alan Little. "The feeling was that, if we didn't have our seat belts on, we both would have died."

"I think, if I hadn't been wearing it, I might not be here," added Ethen.

The pair say they hope the recognition will inspire others to buckle up, whether behind the wheel or in the passenger seat.

"It is important to buckle up, and buckling up does save lives," Alan stated.



On March 4, 2010, Danville Police Chief Philip Broadfoot and Virginia Highway Safety Office Law Enforcement Liaison Don Allen presented Saved By the Belt Awards to the following Danville and Pittsylvania County residents: **Mr. Tyrone Watkins, Ms. Annie Chandler, and Mr. David Hodges.**



All three were wearing their seat belts at the time that they were involved in a motor vehicle crash for which they were not at fault. Each of their crashes occurred in the City of Danville and were investigated by the Danville Police Department.

Annie Chandler was driving East on Highway 58 when a car hit her. She believes her seat belt saved her life, and hopes this award will help remind others to do the same.

"It's a good warning to let other people know too that you know, by fastening up that is the law and we suppose to obey," Chandler said.

Chandler says this was the first award she's ever won, and she's very proud of it.



# Commonwealth's Attorneys Conduct DUI, Advanced DUI Training Programs for Prosecutors, Law Enforcement

In 2008, Virginia experienced 354 alcohol-related fatalities and 7,000 injuries from alcohol-related crashes. So recently, the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council conducted two training programs for prosecutors and law enforcement officers in Virginia to focus on the impaired driving problem and the resulting bloody carnage.

Forty-six officers and prosecutors participated in the **DUI Training Program** conducted at Weyers Cave on February 19, 2010. This training focused on drugged driving, with Dr. David Burrows, a forensic toxicologist with the Department of Forensic Science, instructing on the signs of impairment produced by commonly abused drugs. The attendees also learned about the "Keys to Winning DUI Cases" from Lee Harrell, a Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney in Wythe County and from Suzanne Kerney-Quillen, a Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney from Wise County. Blood withdrawal issues, always an area of concern, were also discussed at the training.

This 6-hour program will be repeated on April 23, 2010, at Wytheville, on June 28, 2010 at Chesterfield and on September 9, 2010 at Newport News. There is no charge for this training. Six hours of In-Service Training Credit has been approved along with 5.5 hours of MCLE Credit.

Fifty-nine prosecutors and law enforcement officers attended the **Advanced DUI Training Program** at Williamsburg on February 24-26, 2010. This intensive, 3-day program covered issues such as investigative stops and probable cause, checkpoints, common DUI problems and defenses, and DUI Manslaughter/Maiming cases. Bryan Porter, an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Alexandria, taught about Code Section 46.2-391 — the unused hammer in our fight against drunk driving. For many, the highlight of the program was the Best Practices Workshop presented by Cathy Black, an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in Williamsburg, covering prosecutor-law enforcement relations.

This training program will be repeated August 25-27, 2010, at Blacksburg. There is no charge for this training, which includes lodging and most meals.

To apply to attend any of the training programs sponsored by the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council, click on the "Training programs" section at their web site — [www.cas.state.va.us](http://www.cas.state.va.us).



## DUI Training for Prosecutors and Law Enforcement

**April 23, 2010 • Wytheville**

**June 28, 2010 • Chesterfield**

**September 9, 2010 • Newport News**

Registration is now open for presentations of the DUI Program. Topics to be covered include: Recognizing the Drugged Driver, Keys to Winning DUI Cases, Blood Testing Issues, and many more. The latest version of the DUI Manual will be distributed to participants. This program utilizes a team-training format requiring a team consisting of a prosecutor and a law enforcement officer from the same jurisdiction. There is some flexibility to accept expanded teams as long as space is available. (6 hours of in-service credit, or 5.5 hours of MCLE credit, has been approved.)

There is no charge for this single day training program. Lunch will be provided. Registration is conducted on line at <http://www.cas.state.va.us/training-programs.htm>.

## Advanced DUI Enforcement and Prosecution

**August 25-27, 2010 • Blacksburg**

The Advanced DUI Enforcement and Prosecution program will be held from August 25-27, 2010, at the Inn at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Overnight accommodations are provided for Tuesday, August 24; Wednesday, August 25; and Thursday, August 26 for students not within commuting distance.

Attendance is limited to 25 teams, each of which consists of a prosecutor and a law enforcement officer from a given jurisdiction. Law Enforcement in-service credit hours and MCLE credits pending approval.

There is no charge for this training, which includes most meals and lodging for students that need it. For more information, contact Ed Hibbard at [whibbard@wm.edu](mailto:whibbard@wm.edu). Registration for this program opens in April 2010.

# Virginia Beach's Green Run High School Conducts "Every 15 Minutes" Program

The award winning anti-drinking and driving awareness program "Every 15 Minutes" was conducted at Green Run High School, on Tuesday, March 9 and Wednesday, March 10. "Every 15 Minutes" is a two-day role-playing interactive program involving junior and senior students and their parents. Students learn the results of their decisions in dealing with teenage drinking, personal safety, and making mature decisions when lives are involved.

This program was the result of months of coordination by the Virginia Beach Police Department Crime Prevention Unit and involved the Police and Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, Virginia Beach Public Schools, Virginia Beach Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, Kellum-Smith and Williams Funeral Home, OceanFront Inn, and Geico Insurance.

On Tuesday, 20 preselected students were removed from class by the "Grim

Reaper", followed by police officers reading those students' obituaries, which were written by their parents to the participants' classes. Then, a mock driving under the influence crash scene was staged on school grounds. Bleachers full of students watched as police, firefighters and paramedics responded to the staged crash. Students who played the roles of injured kids wore realistic makeup that looked like serious wounds. One of the students acted as the fatal victim of the crash. He was put in a white body bag and driven off to the morgue.

The "living dead" students who were removed from class got to participate in an overnight field trip to visit a hospital trauma unit, a mock court DUI trial, and the city jail. After dinner, the students went to their hotel rooms where they wrote a final letter to their parents.

The next morning on Wednesday, the juniors and seniors gathered for an



One of the "victims" of the mock crash is attended to by rescue personnel.

assembly where they watched a music video compiled from footage of events from the previous day. Additionally, letters written by parents to their child and by students to their parents about their tragic, untimely death and the effects on their lives were read. It was a very moving assembly, with tears and dead silence in the auditorium from the audience.

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## Gretna Students Receive Lesson in Driving Safety

By James Meadows, Staff Writer

Altavista Journal

On Feb. 18, a figure dressed in black from head to toe walked the halls of Gretna High School.

Carrying a scythe, Amber Moser, who portrayed the grim reaper, "claimed" 25 of the 650 students at Gretna.

The Grim Reaper Day was sponsored by the school's Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) organization in an effort to promote car safety.

"I hope this helps people decide not to drink and drive, not to speed and to wear their seat belts," Moser, the organization's president, said. "Hopefully what we are doing is making them see the reality of unsafe driving."

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. and lasting until 2 p.m., one student was tapped as dead every 15 minutes.

"Once every 15 minutes, a juvenile dies in a car wreck throughout the United States," said Chris Orlowski, the school's resource officer.

After a student was marked for death, they were escorted out of the classroom for their transition into the afterlife.

Students received a black T-shirt with the words alcohol, texting while driving and no seat belt written on them. The phrases emphasized how each student died.

"I was texting while driving," said victim Candace Ferguson. "They looked at me when I was selected like what happened to you. This message should show the student they really shouldn't

do it (texting) because it could kill people."

Orlowski, who worked four years with the Danville Police Department, has worked severe wrecks during his time.

"Prevention is a good thing if it's out there. Then people will think," he said. "The last thing we want to see is someone in a car wreck or someone killed from a car wreck."

In total, the organization has 65 members this year, which is a major increase from past years.

"We try to get everyone involved," Orlowski said. "We even try to get freshmen because they are still riding in the car and are future drivers."

Orlowski credits his officers for getting the students involved and motivated.

The officers include Moser, president; Wyatt Mayhew, vice president; Ferguson, secretary; and Naomi Spradlin, treasurer.

"We have gotten a lot of positive feedback this year for what we are doing," Spradlin said.

The organization plans to hold a mock car crash a week before the school's prom on April 24.





# YOVASO Announces Upcoming Spring Campaign, 2010 Summer Leadership Retreat



## Spring Campaign

Youth of Virginia Speak Out About Traffic Safety (YOVASO) is excited to partner with NOYS (National Organizations for Youth Safety) during National Youth Traffic Safety Month in May.

"Acting Out and Saving Lives!" is an educational campaign to promote safe driving among teens during the warm weather months. According to statistics, May and July are the two deadliest months for youth on the road. Increased driving time, later curfews, "cruising," speeding, driving with too many passengers, and alcohol are the key factors



in these crashes. Events such as summer parties, graduation parties, and beach week are also linked to an increase in crashes during this period.

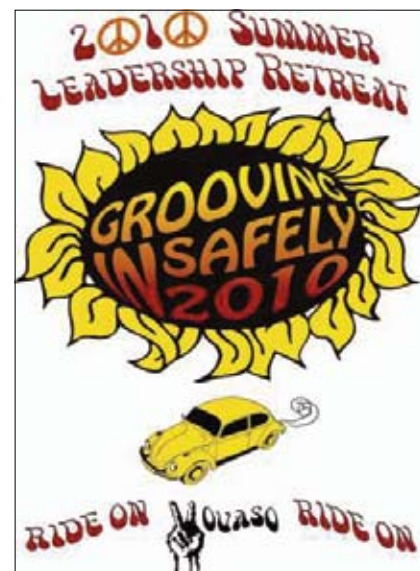
Our goals for our schools is to increase awareness about the problem of teen crashes and fatalities during warm weather months. We also hope that this campaign will empower and engage youth to lead projects and programs addressing youth traffic safety during the times of increased risk, including prom, graduation, and the summer driving season.



## 2010 Summer Leadership Retreat

YOVASO is excited to offer the annual Summer Leadership Retreat for students, school sponsors, and SROs who are interested in advocating for safer driving among Virginia teens. The Retreat will offer a variety of educational and fun activities all based on the theme "Grooving Safely in 2010". Participants will learn how to speak out to raise awareness about teen motor vehicle crashes and fatalities. We challenge you to join us on a blast through the decades for four days of fun and adventure.

The Retreat is **July 20-23, 2010** at Bridgewater College. Any student who is a rising freshman through rising senior is encouraged to attend. For more information contact Morgan Dillon at [morgandillon@yovaso.net](mailto:morgandillon@yovaso.net).



# DMV's New Temporary Tags Are VCIN Compatible

In December, the Department of Motor Vehicles began rolling out a new temporary tag program. Although notification was sent to all law enforcement officials prior to implementation, some officers are not familiar with the new tag program and are stopping individuals whose vehicles bear these tags.

Shown here is a sample temporary tag. This tag is very different from the cardboard tag in that it is printed from a standard printer on 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. Tags are enclosed in a clear, plastic sleeve and attached to the front and rear of vehicles. Vehicle-specific information, including the dealer's name, will appear on the tag. Some dealers may choose to place their dealership logo on the plate. If this option is chosen, it will appear in the top left corner in place of the DMV logo that displays on the sample tag.

More importantly to law enforcement, these tags differ from cardboard temporary tags in that vehicle and owner information are accessible through the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN). This means real time access is the same as permanent license plates. To run a temporary tag inquiry through VCIN, the tag number must be preceded with "TM".

To date, nearly 100 dealers across the state are issuing these new temporary tags and everyday that number grows. It is DMV's



goal that, in the future, these tags will replace the current cardboard tags.

For more information, visit the Dealer Services page on [www.dmvNOW.com](http://www.dmvNOW.com), or contact the Print on Demand Help Desk at (804) 367-1474 or [podtempitag@dmv.virginia.gov](mailto:podtempitag@dmv.virginia.gov).

## DMV Receives National Award for New Driver's License

### Secure Cards, Process 'Contribute to Public Safety, Security'

(December 23, 2009) RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles received the Document Security Award from the Coalition for a Secure Driver's License during a ceremony at DMV in Richmond yesterday. The award recognizes "timely upgrades to the physical attributes of driver's licenses and identity cards to reduce counterfeiting, criminal alteration and improve the reliability of card authentication by government and business."

"The most important component of any identity document is security, which we take very seriously," said DMV Commissioner D.B. Smit. "As part of updating Virginia's driver's license, we made sure it had several different security layers so Virginians can feel confident in their credential."

This past summer, DMV enhanced security and reduced risks for fraud by changing the method of issuing driver's licenses and identification cards from an over-the-counter process to issuance from a secure, central location. The cards also have a new look and feel with a host of state-of-the-art security features to prevent counterfeiting.

The Coalition identified several portions of DMV's new secure process and newly-

designed cards that were noteworthy in determining the award's recipient. For example, DMV requires driver's license and ID card applicants to get their photograph taken at the beginning of the application process, instead of at the end, which allows a photo comparison as another means to verify a customer's identity.

The Coalition remarked on several of the new security features contained in the new Virginia driver's license including a second, black and white photograph of the cardholder, making the card practically impossible to reproduce. Fine lines, variable patterns, microlettering and hidden images only accessible with an ultra-violet light also make the license lettering and hidden images only accessible with an ultra-violet light also make the license virtually tamper-proof.

DMV's establishment of a central card production facility in Danville with a high level of security and restricted access was also noted by the Coalition. DMV moved to centrally produced licenses and ID cards because the sophisticated equipment used in the Danville facility produces credentials with security features that are more technologically-advanced than those formerly pro-

duced in DMV customer service centers.

"The new production center and process, and security features make Virginia's driver's licenses and ID cards one of the most secure and trusted state-issued credentials in the nation," Smit said.

Since issuing driver's licenses and ID cards is one of the most important government responsibilities in our society, according to the Coalition, Identity Security Awards were established to memorialize the distinctive achievements of state agencies. Also, the Coalition states that security improvements made by driver licensing agencies should be recognized because IDs are an important component of modern life.

The Coalition for a Secure Driver's License is a national, non-profit organization created by families impacted by the 9/11 tragedies. The Coalition's goal is to raise public awareness that weak systems for issuing drivers' licenses and IDs increase the risk from foreign terrorists and domestic criminals who may fraudulently assume new identities to escape detection by law enforcement.

For more information, visit <http://www.securelicense.org/cms/index.php>.



## Calendar Year 2009 Traffic Fatalities Continue Record Downward Trend

(March 11, 2010) The U.S. Department of Transportation today announced that the number of overall traffic fatalities reported at the end of 2009 reached the lowest level since 1954, declining for the 15th consecutive quarter. According to early projections, the fatality rate, which takes into account the number of miles traveled, reached the lowest level ever recorded.

"This is exciting news, but there are still far too many people dying in traffic accidents," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood. "Drivers need to keep their hands on the steering wheel and their focus on the road in order to stay safe."

The projected fatality data for 2009 places the highway death count at 33,963, a drop of 8.9 percent as compared to the 37,261 deaths reported in 2008. The fatality rate for 2009 declined to the lowest on record, to 1.16 fatalities per 100 million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) down from 1.25 fatalities per 100 million VMT in 2008.

"This continuing decline in highway deaths is encouraging, but our work is far from over," said National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator David Strickland. "We want to see those numbers drop further. We will not stop as long as there are still lives lost on our nation's highways. We must continue our efforts to ensure seat belts are always used and stay focused on reducing distracted and impaired driving."

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration attributes the decline in 2009 to a combination of factors that include, high visibility campaigns like Click It or Ticket to increase seat belt use, and Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest which helps with the enforcement of state laws to prevent drunk driving and distracted driving. In addition, the decline is also the result of safer roads, safer vehicles and motorists driving less.

NHTSA annually collects crash statistics from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to produce annual reports on traffic fatality trends. The agency intends to update 2009 estimates regularly as more data becomes available. The final counts for 2009 will be made available in the summer of 2010. To view the preliminary fatality statistics visit: <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811291.PDF>

### FROM THE "FAST LANE": The Official Blog of U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood

## Chiefs of Police Are Valued Road Safety Partners

(March 12, 2010) Earlier this week, I spoke with members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Now, we at DOT wholeheartedly share the Chiefs' commitment to making our roads — from super-highways to rural byways — as safe as possible for all types of motorists.



Two of the biggest threats to any community are crime and traffic crashes, and these folks are dedicated to stopping both. So, if I could only say one thing to this organization's members, it would be "Thank you."

And I did thank them for supporting our core safety programs, like "Click it or Ticket," our seat-belt awareness campaign. With the backing of law enforcement, we are getting the message out about seat-belts, and we're seeing results, too. More than eight out of ten Americans are wearing seat belts in cars. Seven out of ten truck drivers are buckling up, and that's a record high for commercial drivers.

With safety campaigns, we know that education alone can't do the job; we need the valuable enforcement effort these law officers provide and the seat-belt and drunk-driving checkpoints they conduct that really help get people to drive more safely.

Without that enforcement, we would not have been able to reduce traffic deaths in 2009 to the lowest overall number since 1954 and the lowest per mile rate on record.

We'll be needing their efforts again as we work to stop distracted driving.

A host of states have already passed laws banning the use of cell phones and texting behind the wheel, but that number is still too low. As I noted last month on these pages, DOT has crafted some sample legislation to help encourage those states who have yet to get in gear on this. We are also seeking \$50 million in next year's budget to develop incentive programs to move those states along.

Now it's time to consider the enforcement part of the distracted driving equation. So in Syracuse, NY, and Hartford, CT, we are piloting a program that combines education with high-visibility enforcement of state law.

And that's where the Chiefs come in. I know that stepped-up enforcement requires police resources, and we appreciate that. But it's worth noting that in places with high-visibility traffic enforcement, crime is also reduced, so high-profile enforcement does pay additional dividends.

I also know that law officers want to protect their communities, and laws against texting or talking on a cell phone while driving give the law enforcement community the tools they need to carry out that invaluable mission.

We want the Chiefs of Police in every state to have that legal tool. We want those laws in every state. And we want to thank law officers everywhere for their service.

Read more from Secretary LaHood at <http://fastlane.dot.gov/>

**Smart, Safe & Sober Partnership**  
c/o Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police  
1606 Santa Rosa Road, Suite 134  
Henrico, VA 23288



**Smart, Safe & Sober is now on Twitter!**  
Follow us at <http://twitter.com/SmartSafeSober>

## Traffic Safety Calendar

April 2010	<b>Alcohol Awareness Month</b> — <a href="http://www.ncadd.org">www.ncadd.org</a>
Apr 13-14, 2010	<b>Mid-Atlantic DUI Conference</b> — Virginia Beach, VA — <a href="http://www.vbgov.com/dui">www.vbgov.com/dui</a>
Apr 15, 2010	<b>2009 Law Enforcement Challenge Awards Applications Due to VACP!</b> — <a href="http://www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/LEC">www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/LEC</a>
Apr 19-23, 2010	<b>National Work Zone Awareness Week</b> — <a href="http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz">http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/wz</a>
Apr 25-May 3, 2010	<b>National SAFE KIDS Week</b> — <a href="http://usa.safekids.org">http://usa.safekids.org</a>
Apr 28, 2010	<b>Distracted Driving Awareness Day</b> — <a href="http://www.drivesmartva.org">www.drivesmartva.org</a>
May 2010	<b>National Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month</b> — <a href="http://www.nhtsa.gov">www.nhtsa.gov</a> <b>National Bike Month</b> — <a href="http://www.bikemonth.com">www.bikemonth.com</a> <b>National Youth Traffic Safety Month</b> — <a href="http://www.noys.gov">www.noys.gov</a>
May 1, 2010	<b>Keep Kids Alive Drive 25 Day</b> — <a href="http://www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org">www.keepkidsalivedrive25.org</a>
May 9-15, 2010	<b>National Police Week</b> — <a href="http://www.nationalcops.org">http://www.nationalcops.org</a>
May 24-Jun 6, 2010	<b>National Click It or Ticket May Mobilization: High-Visibility Enforcement Week</b> — <a href="http://www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/CIOT">www.smartsafeandsober.org/programs/CIOT</a>
May 30-Jun 5, 2010	<b>Smooth Operator Wave 1</b> — <a href="http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com">www.smoothoperatorprogram.com</a>
June 2010	<b>National Safety Month</b> — <a href="http://www.nsc.org/NSM">www.nsc.org/NSM</a>
Jun 20-Jul 4, 2010	<b>Checkpoint Strikeforce 4th of July Impaired Driving Enforcement Campaign</b> — <a href="http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org">www.stopimpaireddriving.org</a>