

Blacksburg Police Department 2013 Annual Report



200 Clay Street S.W.
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540-961-1150
www.blacksburg.gov/police

Table of Contents:

About the Chief.....	3
Mission of the Town of Blacksburg.....	4
Departmental Expenditures.....	5
Uniform Crime Report Statistics.....	6
Internal Affairs and Personnel Complaints.....	7
Physical Arrests.....	8
Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigations.....	9
Police Operations Division.....	11
Police Services Division.....	16
Citizens Police Academy.....	26
Department Grants.....	27
National Accreditation.....	28
Police Chaplains.....	29
Gone But Not Forgotten.....	30



About the Chief:

Chief Crannis has served with the Blacksburg Police Department for 30 years, beginning her career on January 1, 1984. During her time with the department, she has served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Crime Prevention Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant and Professional Standards Lieutenant and Operations Division Commander. She plans to retire March 1, 2014.

Chief Crannis received her Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration from Ferrum College in 1983 and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Virginia Tech in 2000. She is a graduate of the 190th session of the FBI National Academy, the 58th session of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar and the 17th session of the Professional Executive Leadership School in Richmond, Virginia.

Chief Crannis is an assessor for the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, traveling throughout the country conducting compliance assessments of law enforcement agencies.



The Mission of the Town of Blacksburg:

The mission of the Blacksburg Town Government is to support a dynamic community by providing effective municipal services and enhancing Blacksburg's quality of life.

The Government of Blacksburg Values:

- * Innovation
- * Community Pride
- * Fiscal Responsibility
- * Customer Service
- * Leadership
- * Citizen Involvement
- * Open Government
- * Integrity
- * Public Safety

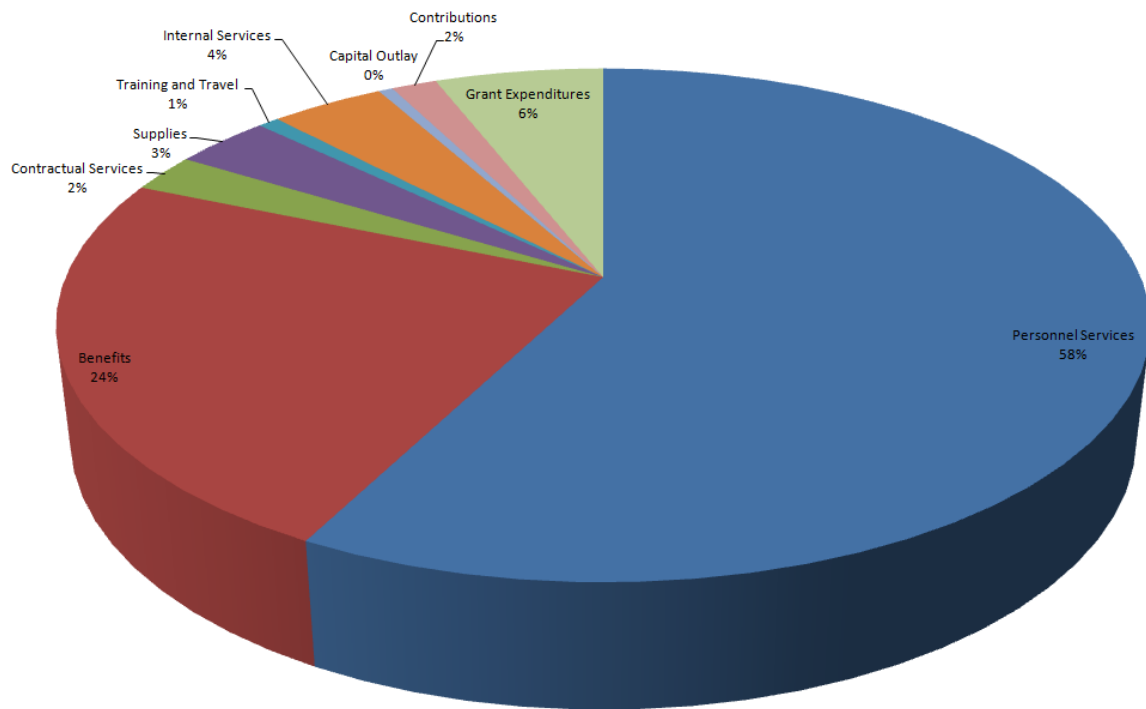


Every citizen contact is an opportunity
to demonstrate these values

TOWN OF
Blacksburg
a special place

2012/2013 Departmental Expenditures:

The Blacksburg Police Department's approved fiscal year 2012/2013 budget contains expenditures of \$7,884,007. The graph below represents how those monies were spent during the course of the fiscal year.



Item Account	2012/13 Council Adopted
Personnel Services	\$4,543,496
Benefits	\$1,869,480
Contractual Services	\$190,154
Supplies	\$268,109
Training and Travel	\$58,620
Internal Services	\$317,546
Capital Outlay	\$39,625
Contributions	\$126,320
Grant Expenditures	\$470,657

Uniform Crime Report Statistics:

The Uniform Crime Report represents statistics submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The eight crimes shown below are known as the Part I Index Crimes. These figures represent actual offenses where a report was taken and the crime can be substantiated. These figures are somewhat lower than the figures appearing on the ***"Calls for Service"*** summary produced by the Blacksburg Police Department due to calls being reclassified as unfounded or as matters civil in nature, following police response.

Type of Crime	2011	2012	2013
Murder & Attempts	0	0	0
Rape & Attempts	16	20	16
Robbery	6	11	4
Aggravated Assaults	9	12	16
Burglary	78	79	85
Larceny-Theft	468	366	412
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	18	15
Arson	3	7	9

Offense	Cleared Arrest Total	Cleared Other Total	Active Total	Inactive Total
Murder & Attempts	0	0	0	0
Rape & Attempts	3	4	4	3
Robbery	2	0	2	0
Aggravated Assaults	13	2	0	1
Burglary	7	3	27	47
Larceny-Theft	44	69	62	203
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	3	4	4
Arson	1	1	0	7

Incidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Murder & Attempts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape & Attempts	0	2	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	4	1	16
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
Aggravated Assaults	1	1	1	2	4	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	16
Burglary	5	6	6	5	5	13	6	8	7	4	11	9	85
Larceny-Theft	22	29	36	30	30	27	40	32	48	48	35	35	412
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1	2	1	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	1	15
Arson	1	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	9
TOTAL	29	39	49	41	43	44	50	43	61	57	52	49	557

Internal Affairs and Personnel Complaints:

The department strives to ensure that it offers the citizens of the Town of Blacksburg the most professional police force possible. To that end, the department examines the actions of employees who are involved in complaints of misconduct. Although the delivery of some police services is not always welcomed by those associated with an event, the department expects professionalism from all employees. The table below details internal affairs and personnel complaints against Blacksburg Police Department personnel.

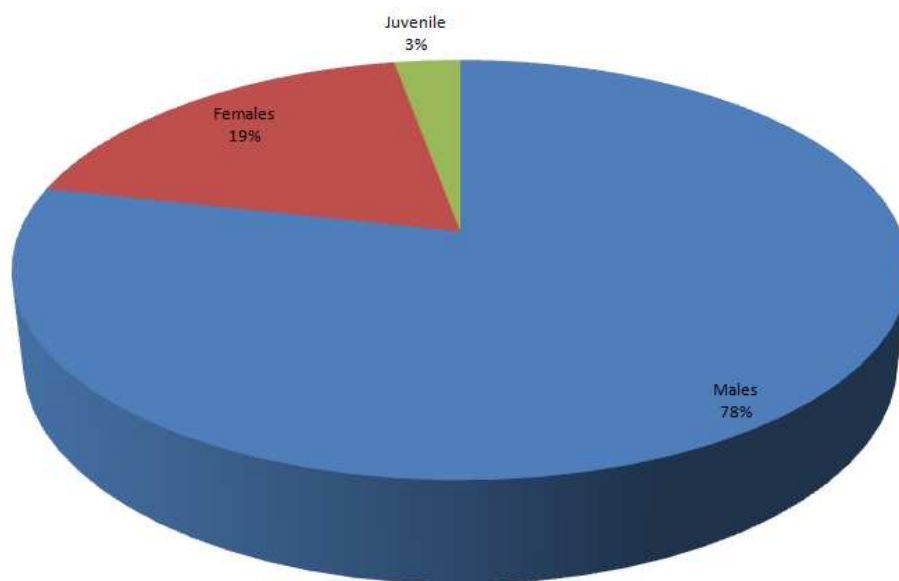
Internal Affairs and Personnel Complaints	2011	2012	2013	Total
Unfounded Complaint	0	2	0	2
Employee Exonerated	0	0	0	0
Complaint Not Sustained	0	0	0	0
Complaint Sustained	0	0	1	1
Policy Review	0	0	2	2
Other	0	0	0	0
Total	0	2	3	5



Physical Arrests:

During 2013, the Blacksburg Police Department arrested 986 individuals averaging 82 arrest per month. Of the arrested individuals in 2013, 78% were male, 19% were female and 3% were juveniles.

Month	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile	TOTAL
January	39	11	4	54
February	56	17	0	73
March	67	14	0	81
April	84	15	0	99
May	65	25	3	93
June	56	10	1	67
July	61	17	2	80
August	58	17	0	75
September	78	11	2	91
October	86	20	3	109
November	80	14	11	105
December	44	13	2	59
TOTAL	774	184	28	986



Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigation:

The table below lists some common infractions drivers were cited for in 2013 and the totals in each category. The list does not include all infraction types, just the top 10. In 2013 there were 3,804 summons issued.

Charge	Citation Total
46.2-874 - SPEEDING IN A 25 MPH ZONE	589
46.2-830 - FAIL TO OBEY HIGHWAY SIGN	399
46.2-646 - EXPIRED STATE TAGS	371
46.2-1158 - EXPIRED INSPECTION/REJECTION DECAL	368
46.2-821 - VEHICLES BEFORE ENTERING CERTAIN HIGHWAYS SHALL STOP OR YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY	361
46.2-875 - SPEEDING IN A 35 MPH ZONE	251
46.2-833 - FAIL TO OBEY A TRAFFIC LIGHT	138
46.2-1094 - FAILURE TO WEAR SEATBELT	131
46.2-104 - FAIL TO CARRY OPERATORS LICENSE OR REGISTRATION CARD	117
46.2-301 - DRIVING W/SUSPENDED OR REVOKED LICENSE	85

In 2011 the Blacksburg Police Department implemented a monthly traffic safety initiative to increase traffic enforcement in identified areas. Focus areas included speeding, seatbelt and child safety seat enforcement, pedestrian and bicycle safety, alcohol violations and stop sign and red light enforcement. Below are the monthly topics of focus and the total number of citations issued in 2013 based on the focus.

Month	Traffic Focus	Citations
January	Seatbelt Violations	28
February	Traffic Sign Violations	155
March	Red Light Violations	40
April	Speeding Violations	271
May	Defective Equipment Violations	15
June	Registration and Inspection Violations	79
July	Seat Belt and Child Safety Seat Violations	6
August	Red Light and Stop Sign Violations	40
September	Seat Belt and Child Safety Seat Violations	6
October	Pedestrian and Bicycle Violations	7
November	Stop Sign Violations	50
December	Speed Violations	79

Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigation:

The Blacksburg Police Department has a six member team that are certified as crash investigators. The Crash Team holds training on a quarterly basis for twelve hours. The members of the Blacksburg Police Department Crash Team are also members of the Blue Ridge Regional Crash Investigations Team (BRR CIT). During the 2013 calendar year the crash team investigated two cases for the Town of Blacksburg.

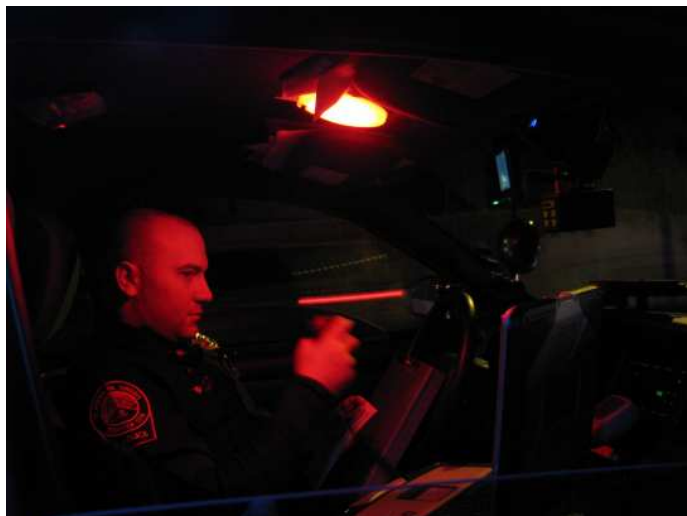


Police Operations Division:

Uniform Patrol

Uniform police patrol is the backbone of every municipal law enforcement agency and the Blacksburg Police Department is no different. Our enforcement techniques are evaluated daily and thoroughly analyzed annually so that we may better respond to the rapidly changing needs of our citizens. Our mission is accomplished through a highly adaptable approach to mobile and bicycle patrols, utilizing specialized equipment and expertly trained personnel. Working around the clock, our uniform patrol function consists of highly visible marked vehicles, unmarked “slick-top” cars, motorcycles and bicycles. In 2013 the department changed the design scheme of the patrol vehicles. Using a variety of vehicles allows our officers closer contact with members of our community and makes it possible to focus enforcement efforts in areas that are not readily accessible by car. The Department continues to acquire grant funding to increase speed enforcement and engage in preventative alcohol violation programs.

While enforcement is an essential component of our peace-keeping efforts, it is equally important that we join with the community to serve other needs as well. In 2013, we supported and participated in activities for Virginia Special Olympics and continued raising funds to provide child safety seats for indigent families. Participation in community groups such as the Town’s traffic committee enables a participative approach to problem solving.



Police Operations Division:

Uniform Patrol

In 2013, the Blacksburg Police Department supported breast cancer awareness by creating a special breast cancer awareness patch and marking a patrol vehicle with special decals and pink lettering. Officers wore the patch on their uniform for the month of October in support of this effort. The Blacksburg Police Department raised over \$2,000 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation.



Police Operations Division:

K9 Officers

In 2007 the Blacksburg Police Department was authorized to establish a Canine Unit, the first in the town's history. The Department currently has three Patrol Canine Handlers and three drug dogs which allows for accessibility of use and strengthens the department's enforcement activities. Canine Baro was the third canine introduced to the force in 2013 and works with Officer C.M. Kodsi. Canine Zombie was scheduled for retirement at the end of 2013/beginning of 2014. A resident of the Town of Blacksburg heard of this and donated money to purchase a new canine in replacement of Zombie. With those funds canine Mika joined the force in replacement of canine Zombie. Canine Zombie was adopted by his handler Officer J.C. Blackburn.

The Department plans to introduce a fourth Patrol Canine Handler and the department's first explosives detection dog in 2014. Funds awarded by the U.S. Attorney Generals Office will be used to purchased the new canine, pay for schooling and a patrol vehicle for the new pair. Each pairing of officer and canine have been certified by the Virginia State Police and U.S. Customs in the detection of illegal narcotics to include marijuana, cocaine, heroine, methamphetamine, ecstasy and hashish.



Officer J.C. Blackburn, canine Mika, and Lorraine Hodge who donated the funds to purchase Mika.

Police Operations Division:

K9 Officers Continued

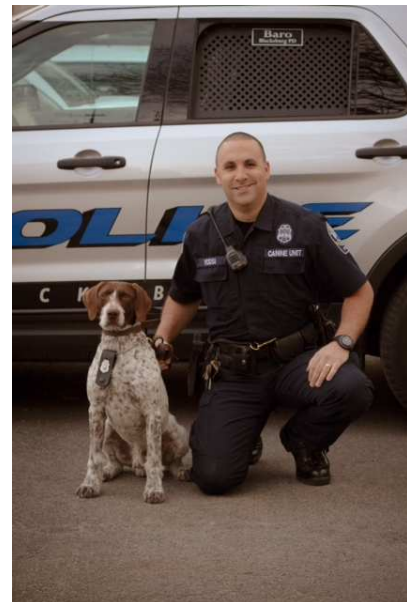
The Canine Unit conducts searches of vehicles, buildings, packages, mail, luggage, and open areas, and has proven a highly valuable tool in the Department's proactive approach to the suppression of the use and distribution of illegal narcotics in the Town of Blacksburg. The unit's primary function is to detect and eradicate illegal narcotics in our schools, neighborhoods and on our streets. They have been instrumental in the arrest of numerous suspects involved in illegal narcotic distribution and the seizure of assets and quantities of illegal narcotics. Through a collaborative regional agreement, the unit has been utilized by neighboring agencies in their policing efforts. The Canine Unit also conduct's public demonstrations on a regular basis to civic groups, scout troops, childcare centers, church groups and schools.



Officer J.C. Blackburn & Mika



Officer R.S. Combs & Chesty



Officer C.M. Kodsí & Baro

Police Operations Division:

Emergency Response Team (E.R.T.)

The Blacksburg Police Department Emergency Response Team is comprised of thirteen highly trained officers and two tactical medics who perform various critical functions within the Police Department including high risk warrant service, barricade response, hostage rescue, VIP security, hazardous materials situations and weapons of mass destruction response. The tactical medics were added to the Emergency Response Team in 2012. The tactical medics provide medical care in situations that are often too dangerous for regular paramedics and ambulance workers. The tactical medics treat victims, suspects, and law enforcement officers.

All prospective ERT members go through a rigorous selection process which includes interviews, advanced weapons qualification and demanding annual physical fitness and strength training requirements. The team is comprised of a division commander, one team commander, one assistant team commander, ten police officers, and two tactical medics. In addition to the overall advanced training team members are required to complete, individual members are highly trained and skilled in specific disciplines including: Less Lethal/Chemical Munitions, Sharp Shooter, Forced Entry, Tactical Medic and K-9 Operations. ERT members stand ready at a moment's notice to respond to any emergency and are committed to providing the best possible service to our community.

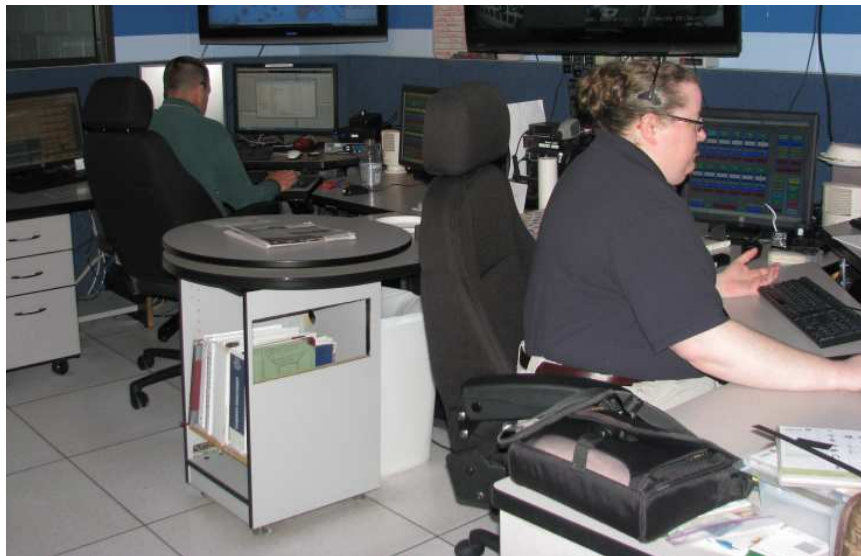


Police Services Division:

Police Communications

The central contact point for any law enforcement agency, its officers, and the community resides within the Emergency Services Communications Center. The Blacksburg Police Department Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day by 10 full-time, professionally certified communications officers who receive all requests for emergency and non-emergency police, fire, and first-aid assistance. The facility is equipped with the latest technology to keep the agency on pace with ever-changing community needs. Our Communications Officers continually monitor 20 telephone lines and 10 active radio frequencies. During 2013 the Center's Communications Officers dispatched 20,184 calls for emergency services on the Police Department's computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

Year	Calls for Service	Increase/Decrease
2010	23,672	— —
2012	23,000	-2.84
2013	20,184	-12.24



Police Services Division:

Criminal Investigations Unit

The Criminal Investigations Unit (C.I.U.) of the Police Department is responsible for the investigation of multiple and major crimes including homicide, rape, robbery, arson, burglary and drug violations. The plain-clothes investigative unit consists of one Lieutenant, one Sergeant, five Detectives, one forensic detective, one street crimes officer, one drug task force officer, and one evidence technician/property clerk. Members of this unit are prepared to respond to crimes as needed, around the clock. In 2012, the Criminal Investigations Unit initiated 231 investigative cases, clearing 128 cases for a clearance rate of 55%. The Criminal Investigations Unit made 48 criminal arrests (103 felony arrest and 49 misdemeanor arrests) for a 38% arrest rate.



Police Services Division:

New River Regional Drug Task Force

The Blacksburg Police Department is a participating member of the New River Regional Drug Task Force. The task force is a collaborative effort of local law enforcement agencies including the Virginia Tech Police Department, Christiansburg Police Department, Montgomery County Sheriffs Office, Floyd County Sheriffs Office and the Virginia State Police. Each investigator is sworn in as a State Police Special Agent. Objectives of the Task Force include targeting, investigating and prosecuting individuals and organizations dealing in narcotics in Montgomery County and Floyd County.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit was created in 2012 to monitor and investigate street level drug violations, investigate violations of laws regulating the sale of alcohol, develop and maintain street level intelligence through confidential informants, apprehend wanted fugitives, and to assist the criminal investigation units at both law enforcement agencies with investigations concerning violent and serial crime. The Street Crimes Unit is composed of one sworn law enforcement officer.



Police Services Division:

Crime Scene Unit & Property and Evidence

The proper identification, collection and handling of evidence are crucial elements in any criminal investigation. Since 1975, Blacksburg Police personnel have received intensive training at the Virginia Forensic Science Academy in Richmond. The Forensic Technician utilizes modern methods and technology to ensure the integrity of property and evidence protocols, crime scene processing and related case-sensitive documents. In 2013 Forensic Detective M.P. Czernicki and Evidence Technician E.F. Moore processed and/or handled 1,719 pieces of evidence, executed 145 evidentiary court orders, and processed 58 crime scenes.



Police Services Division:

Crime Prevention and Community Relations

The success of any law enforcement agency, particularly in the realm of crime prevention, is dependent upon the active participation of its' service community. The Police Department has long enjoyed a solid, cooperative and positive relationship with our citizens resulting in a low crime rate and enhanced public safety. Each year, the Crime Prevention Unit provides comprehensive prevention education programs and curriculums to thousands of citizens of all ages and backgrounds. The unit is comprised of Crime Prevention Officers and specialists, two School Resource Officers, and a D.A.R.E. Officer. Among the community outreach programs offered are neighborhood and apartment watch, child safety seat installations, law enforcement internships, home and business security surveys, and victim/witness assistance.

The Blacksburg Police Department is a longtime member of the Virginia Crime Prevention Association. Established in 1978, the VCPA is a non-profit organization established to develop and implement programs that prevent crime. The VCPA partners with law enforcement, community groups, schools businesses, public housing, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Virginia Community Policing Institute, the Virginia State Police, the National Crime Prevention Council and other organizations to deliver programs and services. Services include training, technical assistance, program development, advocacy and resource material.



Police Services Division:

Programs, services, and information available through the Blacksburg Police Department
Crime Prevention Unit:

- * Class Action curriculum for Middle and High School students
- * D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)
- * Bicycle Safety
- * Alcohol Laws and Awareness
- * Personal Safety
- * Fraud Prevention
- * Neighborhood and Apartment Watch
- * Traffic Safety
- * Victim/Witness Assistance
- * Designated Driver Programs
- * Stranger Safety for Children
- * Home and Business Security Surveys
- * Operation I.D.
- * Date Rape Awareness
- * Fake I.D. Awareness
- * Reporting Crimes and Accidents
- * Records, Reports and Fingerprinting



Police Services Division:

School Resource Officers

The Blacksburg Police Department maintains a partnership with the Montgomery County Public Schools, working closely with school administrators, teachers, and other staff to enhance the overall educational environment. A Virginia-certified law enforcement officer works in the Middle and High Schools to provide immediate access to all law enforcement services and to assist in maintaining a high level of safety, order, and discipline. The program operates under a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Montgomery County School System and provides two highly qualified and specially trained officers to serve as School Resource Officers (SRO).

School Resource Officers are, first and foremost, Law Enforcement Officers and are responsible for addressing any criminal complaints or incidents that arise on school property, or during school sponsored events. School Resource Officers are state certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia to function as SROs, and they are also certified to instruct the "Class Action" program. The "Class Action" program teaches students their rights, responsibilities, and obligations under the Law; and informs them of consequences of their actions. School Resource Officers also provide classroom instructional programs on alcohol awareness/laws/DUI, narcotic drugs, computer crimes, personal safety, the role of the police, etc. and can provide brochures on numerous topics of concern to students and parents.



Police Services Division:

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.)

In cooperation with Montgomery County Schools, the Blacksburg Police Department provides the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. The 10 week curriculum overseen by the Virginia State Police is an interactive program taught to fifth grade classes in all four Blacksburg Elementary Schools. The curriculum meets the Standards of Learning (S.O.L), providing students with effective techniques to make healthy decisions dealing with peer pressure and the social and legal consequences of drugs and violence. In 2013, over 220 fifth grade students between four elementary schools received D.A.R.E. instruction.



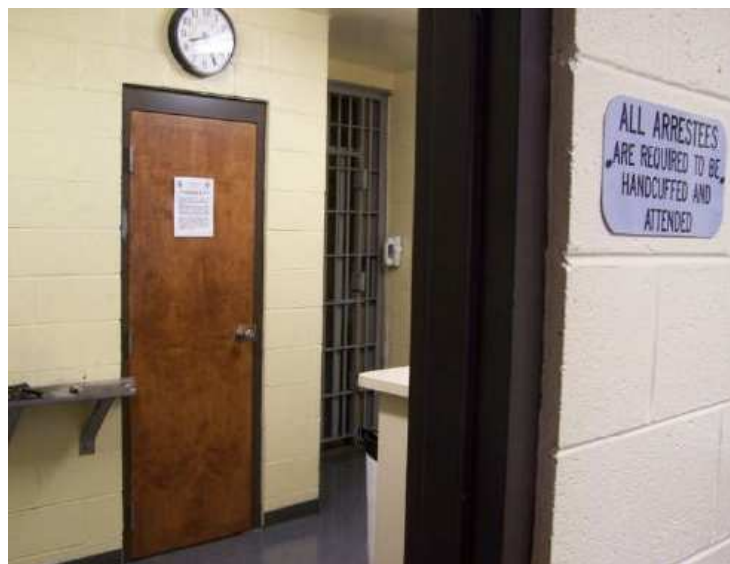
Police Services Division:

Temporary Detention Facility and Video Magistrate

The Blacksburg Police Department began operating a temporary detention facility and satellite Magistrates' Office in 1993 to reduce man-hours required for processing and transportation of arrestees to the Montgomery County Jail, allowing Blacksburg Police officers to spend more time in the town limits patrolling and enforcing the law. The Temporary Detention Facility allows for short-term housing of arrestees before transport to the Montgomery County Jail for incarceration and the video magistrate system is available 24 hours a day to local law enforcement and to the public.

The Blacksburg Police Department has a Temporary Detention Facility that is classified as a Lock-Up by the Virginia Department of Corrections. This facility briefly houses arrestees, for periods less than twelve hours. The facility is staffed by one full time Police Services Officers and this officers primary duties encompass the operation of the Blacksburg Police Department Temporary Detention Facility.

The Temporary Detention Facility is required to be inspected and operated in compliance with Virginia Department of Corrections standards located in the Virginia Administrative Code. During calendar year 2013, the facility processed a total of 224 inmates. The facility also underwent an inspection by the Department of Corrections that found it to be in 100% compliance with all standards that govern Lock-Ups.



Police Services Division:

School Crossing Guards

As a component in our effort to help keep children safe the Blacksburg Police Department employs 7 part-time School Crossing Guards. Working in teams of two at Gilbert Linkous, Harding Avenue, Kipps and Margaret Beeks Elementary schools, our School Crossing Guards have assisted thousands of children, pedestrians, motorists and cyclists to enter and depart school property and their adjoining intersections safely.



Parking Enforcement

The Blacksburg Police Department enforces parking violations throughout the Town with a primary focus on the metered spaces in Blacksburg's active downtown business district. The agency employs a full-time parking enforcement officer, and the daylight bicycle patrol officers also dedicates a large part of their day to parking enforcement. For the calendar year 2012, Blacksburg Police officers issued 5,623 parking tickets.



Citizens Police Academy:

The Blacksburg Police Department conducts a Citizens Police Academy twice annually. One night per week over a ten week period, Academy students learn about the basic functions in most areas of the police department. Academy topics include evidence and crime scene processing, communications, accreditation, crime prevention, search and seizure and patrol. Hands-on experience is gained riding with officers on various shifts and traveling to the firing range for a familiarity exercise with agency armament. Citizen involvement in this program aids us in achieving our goal of developing and maintaining a positive interactive relationship with our community. The academy is open to residents of Blacksburg as well as the County of Montgomery. Pictured below are the 27th and 28th session graduates.



Department Grants:

Annually, the Blacksburg Police Department applies for grant monies to fund selective enforcement activities. The grants are submitted to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control. This directed patrol and enforcement activity targets specific enforcement issues in two primary fields.

The Blacksburg Police Department was awarded funds in FY 2012/2013 of \$17,230 and funds in FY 2013/2014 of \$24,480 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Safety Funds through the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles to target speed, occupancy protection and driving under the influence offenses. Blacksburg Police officers worked 566 extra-duty hours through 10 different checkpoints and 67 saturation patrols enforcing speed limits, occupant protection laws and other moving violations, as well as seeking out DUI drivers. In 2013, officers issued 193 traffic citations and made 1 arrest while working grant-funded directed patrol.



National Accreditation:

The Blacksburg Police Department has been a Nationally Accredited law enforcement agency since 1993 and in 2013 the agency received its' seventh award with excellence for successful re-accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) evaluates law enforcement agencies on their compliance with 479 public safety standards over a three-year cycle. This award represents the culmination of self-evaluation, concluded by a review from independent assessors and CALEA's Commissioners demonstrating Blacksburg Police Department's commitment to professional excellence in policy and practice. CALEA Accreditation also represents acceptance of an ongoing obligation to continue the quest for professional excellence. The Blacksburg Police Department is honored to have been recognized. The Blacksburg Police Department will be evaluated again for CALEA compliance in 2016.



Police Chaplains:

The Blacksburg Police Department has two police Chaplains, Dr. Thomas McDearis and Reverend Bryson Smith. Both Chaplains work with law enforcement personnel on a professional level by making themselves immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist in times of loss, confusion, depression, or grief to people in crisis situations. The Chaplains provide this service not only to the community, but also to all department employees and their families as well. Dr. McDearis has served the department since October 2003 and Reverend Smith has served the department since November 2011.



Dr. Thomas McDearis



Reverend Bryson Smith

Gone But Not Forgotten:

Officer Terry L. Griffith

*Christiansburg Police Department
End of Watch
September 18, 1994*

Officer Scott A. Hylton

*Christiansburg Police Department
End of Watch
May 9, 2003*

Corporal Eric E. Sutphin

*Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
End of Watch
August 21, 2006*

Officer Vernon V. Speece

*Blacksburg Police Department
End of Watch
September 7, 2008*

Officer Deriek W. Crouse

*Virginia Tech Police Department
End of Watch
December 8, 2011*

Trooper Andrew D. Fox

*Virginia State Trooper
End of Watch
October 5, 2012*