

# Blacksburg Police Department

## 2014 Annual Report



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## About the Chief:

Chief Wilson has served with the Blacksburg Police Department for 16 years. During his time with the department, he has served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Detective Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Captain of Services Division, Homeland Defense Coordinator, Tactical Commander during William Morva manhunt and Virginia Tech Shootings, Emergency Response Team Commander and K-9 Unit Commander. In his previous years, he served in the United States Marine Corps and as a volunteer firefighter and officer for the Blacksburg Fire Department. Chief Wilson was promoted to Chief of Police on March 1st, 2014.

Chief Wilson received his Bachelor's Degree in Dairy Science from Virginia Tech in 1990. He is a graduate of the 240th session of the FBI National Academy and the Professional Executive Leadership School in Richmond, Virginia. He has received a Medal of Valor, Virginia Police Chief Foundation's Lifesaving Award, Distinguished Service Award, Meritorious Service Award, and the American Legion Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award.



# Chief Crannis Retirement

Former Chief Kimberly S. Crannis served with the Blacksburg Police Department for over 30 years, beginning her career on January 1, 1984. During her time with the department, she served as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Crime Prevention Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Professional Standards Lieutenant and Operations Division Commander. On March 1, 2014, she retired, passing the position to current Chief Anthony Wilson as pictured below.



# The Mission of the Town of Blacksburg:

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

The Town of Blacksburg Values:

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



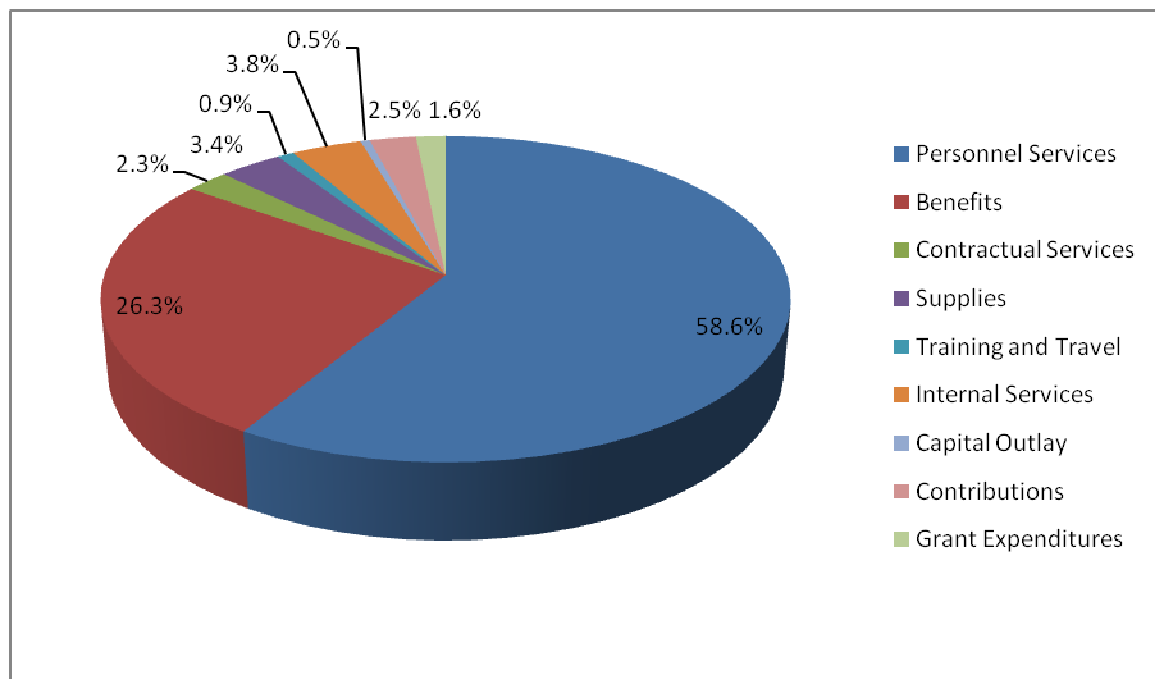
**Every** citizen contact is an opportunity  
to demonstrate these values

**Blacksburg** TOWN OF  
*a special place*



# 2013/2014 Departmental Expenditures:

The Blacksburg Police Department's approved fiscal year 2013/2014 budget contained \$7,688,138. The graph below represents how those monies were spent during the course of the fiscal year.



Item Account	2013/14 Council Adopted
Personnel Services	\$4,505,540
Benefits	\$2,024,055
Contractual Services	\$178,497
Supplies	\$264,679
Training and Travel	\$68,985
Internal Services	\$295,488
Capital Outlay	\$37,350
Contributions	\$193,455
Grant Expenditures	\$120,089

# 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	2012	2013	2014
Murder & Attempts	0	0	1
Rape & Attempts	20	16	23
Robbery	11	4	3
Aggravated Assaults	12	16	14
Burglary	79	85	69
Larceny-Theft	366	412	341
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	15	15
Arson	7	9	1

Offense	Cleared Arrest Total	Cleared Other Total	Active Total	Inactive Total
Murder & Attempts	1	0	0	0
Rape & Attempts	4	13	4	1
Robbery	0	0	2	1
Aggravated Assaults	7	2	4	1
Burglary	7	4	20	36
Larceny-Theft	46	48	70	140
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	3	4	6
Arson	0	0	0	1

Incidents	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Murder & Attempts	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape & Attempts	1	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	4	4	4	3	23
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Aggravated Assaults	1	2	4	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	14
Burglary	9	2	3	7	7	2	5	4	6	3	5	9	62
Larceny-Theft	22	21	28	30	22	50	32	32	37	45	5	17	341
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	2	5	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	15
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>459</b>

# 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	2012	2013	2014	Total
Unfounded Complaint	2	0	1	3
Employee Exonerated	0	0	0	0
Complaint Not Sustained	0	0	2	2
Complaint Sustained	0	1	1	2
Policy Review	0	2	0	2
Other	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>

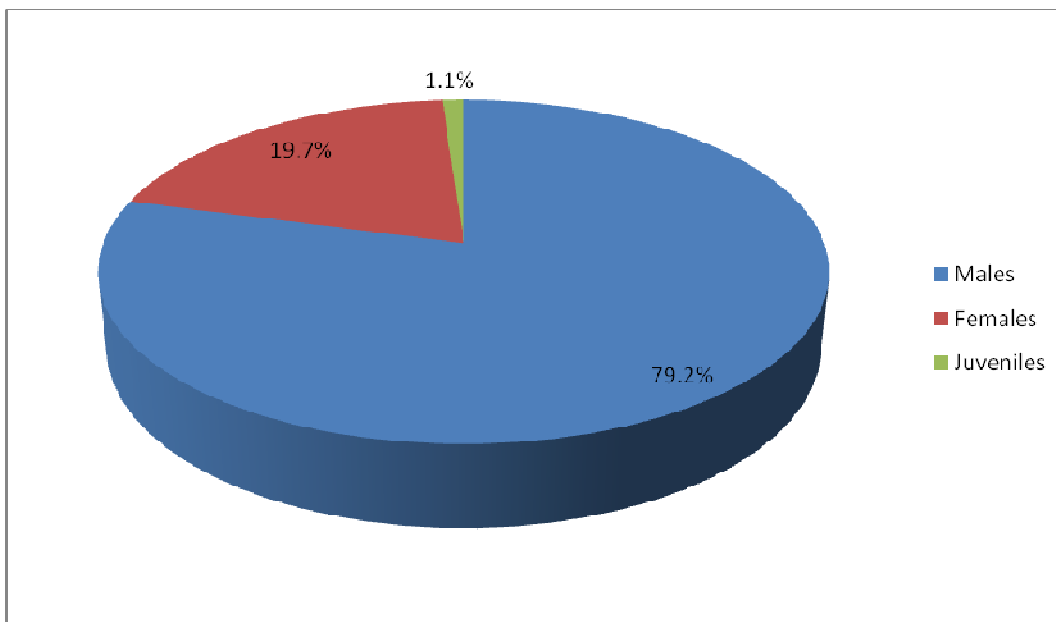




## Physical Arrests:

During 2014, the Blacksburg Police Department arrested 986 individuals averaging 82 arrests per month. Of the arrested individuals in 2014, 78% were male, 19% were female and 3% were juveniles.

Month	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile	TOTAL
January	42	12	0	54
February	52	12	0	64
March	65	16	1	82
April	79	11	1	91
May	60	12	0	72
June	42	15	0	57
July	50	14	1	65
August	48	16	1	65
September	55	18	2	75
October	52	7	0	59
November	58	17	0	75
December	46	12	2	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>819</b>



# Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigation:

The table below lists some common infractions drivers were cited for in 2014 and the totals in each category. The list does not include all infraction types, just the top 10. In 2014 there were 3,738 summons issued.

Charge	Citation Total
46.2-874 - SPEEDING IN A 25 MPH ZONE	726
46.2-830 - FAIL TO OBEY HIGHWAY SIGN	434
46.2-646 - EXPIRED STATE TAGS	370
46.2-875 - SPEEDING IN A 35 MPH ZONE	291
46.2-1158 - EXPIRED INSPECTION/REJECTION DECAL	253
46.2-821 - VEHICLES BEFORE ENTERING CERTAIN HIGHWAYS SHALL STOP OR YIELD RIGHT-OF-WAY	246
46.2-833 - FAIL TO OBEY A TRAFFIC LIGHT	167
46.2-1094 - FAILURE TO WEAR SEATBELT	113
46.2-873 - 10-19 MPH OVER SPEED LIMIT IN SCHOOL ZONE	108
46.2-1003 - USE UNSAFE EQUIPMENT	96

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, stop sign violations, equipment and inspection violations, motorcycle/moped violations, red light enforcement and right of way violations. Below are the monthly topics of focus and the total number of citations issued in 2014 based on the focus.

Month	Traffic Focus	Citations
January	Right Turn on Red and Right of Way Violations	60
February	Equipment and Inspection Violations	43
March	School Zone Speed Violations	10
April	Motorcycle/Moped Violations	2
May	Speed Violations	162
June	Child Safety Seat Violations	1
July	N/A	N/A
August	School Zone Speed and Red Light Violations	39
September	Speed and Stop Sign Violations	125
October	Seatbelt Violations	20
November	Stop Sign Violations	11
December	Speed Violations	71

## 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 2014 calendar year the crash team investigated one case 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 2014, 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 2014, 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 \$2,400 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 four Patrol Canine Handlers and three drug canines and one explosives detective canine 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 retired at the 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. Canine Chesty was retired in August 2014 and replaced by canine Mika's twin sister, Nala. Chesty served for over 7 years at Blacksburg Police Department.



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



Mayor Rordam, Officer Combs, Town Manager Marc Verniel, Chief Wilson, and retired canine Chesty.



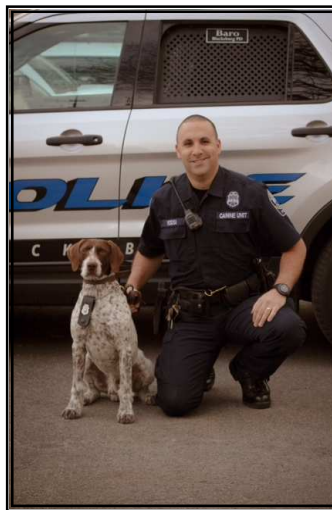
# Police Operations Division:

## **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. Each pairing of officer and drug 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. 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 C.M. Kodosi & Baro



Officer R.S. Combs & Nala

# Police Operations Division:

## **K9 Officers**

The Department introduced a fourth Patrol Canine Handler and the department's first explosives detection canine, Brek, in 2014. Funds awarded by the U.S. Attorney General's Office were used to purchase the new canine, pay for schooling and a patrol vehicle for the new pair. Canine Brek is trained in the detection of multiple different explosives and responses to items recently contaminated with, or associated with, the odor of one or more of the explosive substances. Canine Brek and his handler were certified together as a team on May 21, 2014 at the Virginia State Police Training Academy. They are required to conduct 24 hours of maintenance training per month.



# 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. 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 2014 the Center's Communications Officers dispatched 20,590 calls for emergency services on the Police Department's computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

Year	Calls for Service	Increase/Decrease
2012	23,000	— —
2013	20,184	-12.24
2014	20,590	2.01





# 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, one Joint Terrorism Task Force detective, and one evidence technician/property clerk. Members of this unit are prepared to respond to crimes as needed, around the clock. In 2014, the Criminal Investigations Unit initiated 342 investigative cases, clearing 198 cases for a clearance rate of 58%. The Criminal Investigations Unit made 26 criminal arrests (54 felony charges and 11 misdemeanor charges) for a 7% 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.

## **Joint Terrorism Task Force**

The Joint Terrorism Task Force is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, other federal agencies, and state and local law enforcement. The Blacksburg Police Department currently has one sworn detective assigned to the task force. The Joint Terrorism Task Force detective conducts specialized investigations involving matters of National Security and terrorism, including the documentation of information, determination of subject nexus to terrorism, and performs related duties as required.



# 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 2014 Forensic Detective M.P. Czernicki and Evidence Technician E.F. Moore processed and/or handled 1,618 pieces of evidence, executed 188 evidentiary court orders, and processed 26 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, three School Resource Officers, and two D.A.R.E. officers. 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 three 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 and laws, narcotic drugs, computer crimes, personal safety, and the role of the police and 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 2014, 250 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 2014, the facility processed a total of 45 inmates.





# 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 dedicate a large part of their day to parking enforcement. For the calendar year 2014, Blacksburg Police officers issued 3,530 parking tickets.



# Police Services Division:

## Lobby Redesign

In 2014 Blacksburg Police Department underwent a facility update of the lobby and security features. Security cameras were set in place around the lobby in order to supervise entry into the building. The walls of the lobby were moved and an interview room was added for citizens and officers to use for confidentiality purposes. An interactive TV was also added to provide information to visitors about the town and current events.



# Police Services Division:

## **Adopt-A-Cop Program**

The Adopt-A-Cop Program was initiated in the Spring of 2013. This six-week long academy was created to improve the relationship between the fraternities of Virginia Tech and the Blacksburg Police Department. Off-campus fraternities are the majority of the population that contributes to the social interaction and engagement in the community. Reputations of fraternities are often portrayed as deviant and problematic, opposite of how the police department sees their potential. For most fraternities, they view police officers with fear and mistrust. This program is designed to increase positive interaction with the fraternities and educate them about the true purpose of the police department, address problems in the neighborhood, explain the local laws and ordinances to them, provide direction for social events, and many other steps to keep the fraternities and police officers safe.

The relationship of the Adopt-A-Cop program is between one officer and one fraternity. A fraternity applies to be a part of the program, and once approved a police officer is assigned to the fraternity. The officer acts as a teacher and mentor to the fraternity, educating them on how to stay safe when out with friends , drink responsibly, and how to be role models in their community. The officer attends fraternity meetings at least once a semester to give input on events and answer questions.

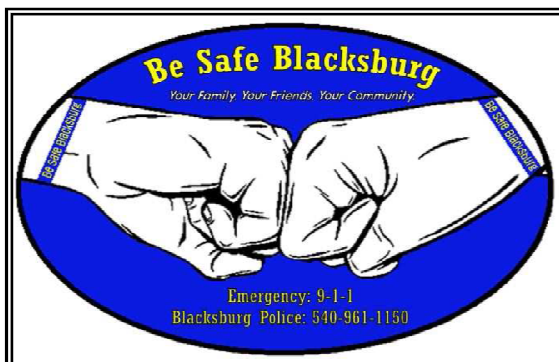


# Police Services Division:

## **No Hokie Left Behind/Be Safe Blacksburg Programs**

The No Hokie Left Behind and Be Safe Blacksburg programs were initiated in the Fall of 2014. No Hokie Left Behind was created because of the increasing number of college students that would walk by themselves at night, which sometimes lead to them becoming victims of crimes. This initiative is designed to let students know that they should look out for each other and never travel alone. If students go out, the objective is that they will plan to go together, stay together, and leave together.

Be Safe Blacksburg was created for the community and public school students to increase knowledge about how to stay safe. The focus for high school students is on drugs and alcohol and how both cannot only harm the body, but also the lives of others. For K-12 the focus is on bullying and peer pressure. Students are influenced by how their peers treat them, so the Be Safe Blacksburg program helps educate students on how to prevent bullying and step up if they see someone being bullied. For adults, the program tries to get the community to look out for their fellow neighbors by either helping someone in need, such as walking an elderly lady across the street or calling emergency services for someone who cannot. These programs are for community safety and education.





## Citizens Police Academy:

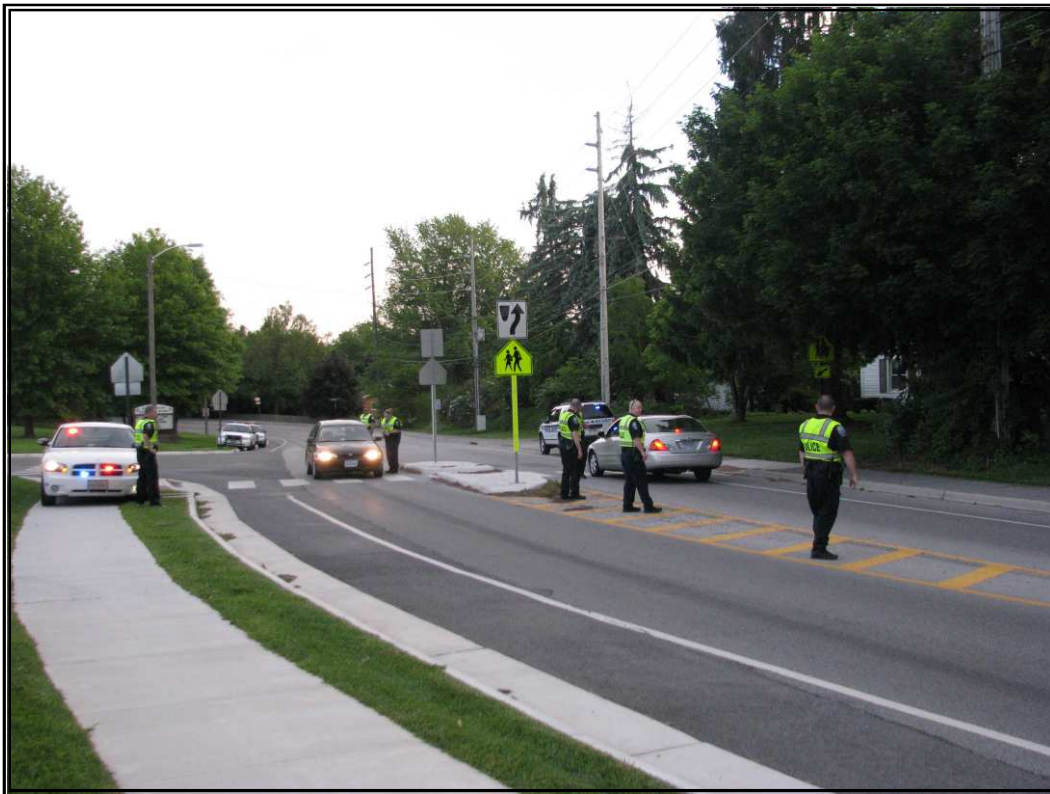
The Blacksburg Police Department conducts a Citizens Police Academy annually. One night per week over a ten week period, academy students learn about the basic functions in most areas of the police department. Academy topics include evidence and crime scene processing, communications, accreditation, 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 firearms. 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 29th session graduates with Chief Wilson and Sergeant Hayes.



# 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.

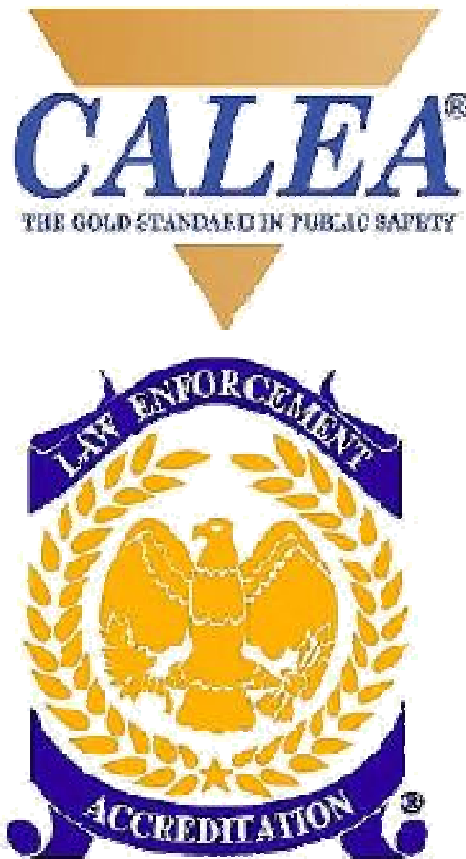
The Blacksburg Police Department was awarded funds in FY 2013/2014 of \$24,480 and funds in FY 2014/2015 of \$20,930 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Safety Funds through the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles to target speed, occupancy protection and driving under the influence offenses. Blacksburg Police officers worked 212 extra-duty hours through 1 checkpoint and 121 saturation patrols enforcing speed limits, occupant protection laws and other moving violations, as well as seeking out DUI drivers. In 2014, officers issued 111 traffic citations and made 3 arrests 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 April of 2016.



# Police Chaplains:

The Blacksburg Police Department has two police Chaplains, Dr. Thomas McDearis and Scott Obenchain. 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 Mr. Obenchain began his service in 2014.



Dr. Thomas McDearis



Scott Obenchain

# 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 Sheriffs Office  
End of Watch  
August 21, 2006*

## *Officer Vernon V. Speece*

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

## *Officer Derick W. Crouse*

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