

# Blacksburg Police Department Annual Report 2011



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# Table of Contents

About the Chief.....	3
Chief's Message.....	4
Mission of the Town of Blacksburg.....	5
Mission of the Blacksburg Police Department.....	6
Departmental Expenditures.....	7
Uniform Crime Report Statistics.....	8
Internal Affairs and Personnel Complaints.....	9
Physical Arrests.....	10
Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigations.....	11-12
Police Operations Division.....	13-15
Police Services Division.....	16-24
Citizens Academy.....	25
Department Grants.....	26
National Accreditation.....	27
Gone But Not Forgotten.....	28



# About the Chief

Chief Crannis has served with the Blacksburg Police Department for 28 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.

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 190<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI National Academy, the 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Law Enforcement Executive Development Seminar and the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



# A Message from the Chief of Police

It is my pleasure to present the 2011 Blacksburg Police Department Annual Report. The report is a collaborative effort among the staff of the police department to showcase department activities during the previous calendar year.

The members of the Blacksburg Police Department are a dedicated group of professionals committed to providing the highest quality of service to the Town of Blacksburg. It is the employees of the Town that truly make this a special place to live and work. Partnerships with Blacksburg's citizens enable us to identify, prioritize and address community concerns, effectively impacting the fear and incidence of crime and disorder. We recognize that these successes would not be possible without meaningful interaction between the Police Department and the citizens we serve. We continue to partner with our local and university officials to ensure that we are consistently providing exceptional, ethical and professional customer service.

As a way of developing meaningful relationships and educating local residents, we encourage participation in our Citizens' Police Academy and the Town's Citizens' Institute. The Police Department offers numerous community outreach/crime prevention programs designed to assist our residents in reducing the opportunity to become a victim. Please visit our website to learn about the programs we offer.

The members of the Blacksburg Police Department take our role as community caretakers seriously. We consider it an honor to serve you, the citizens of Blacksburg.



# 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*



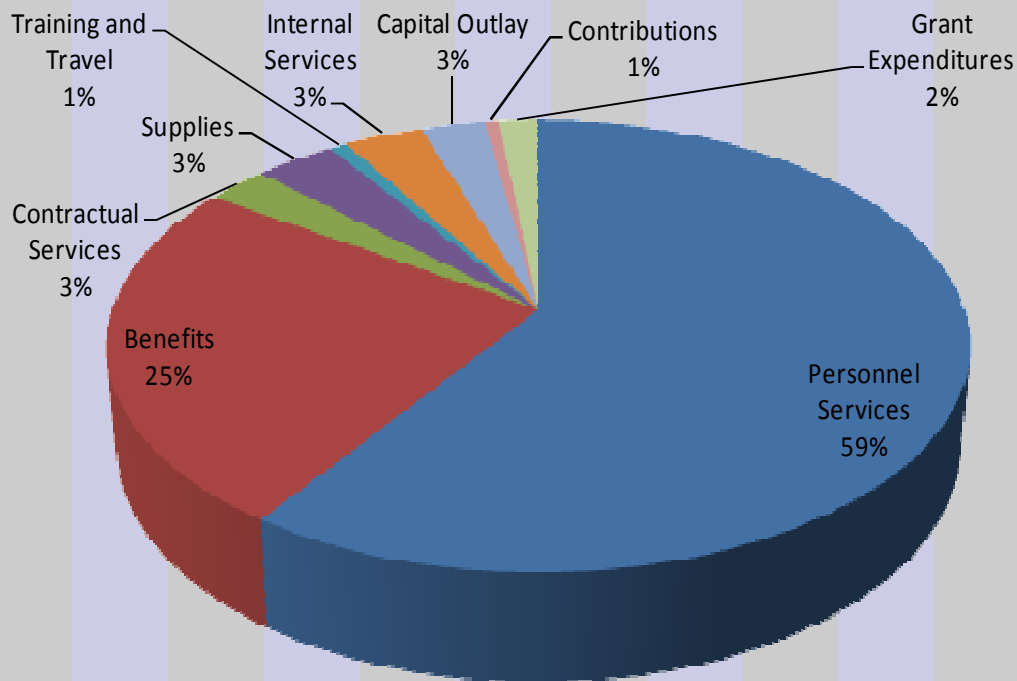
## The Mission of the Blacksburg Police Department

The mission/philosophy of the Blacksburg Police Department is three-fold: to *protect* the life, individual liberty and property of all people within the town; to *develop* and *maintain* a positive relationship with members of the community; and to *foster* a positive working environment for police employees.



## 2010/2011 Departmental Expenditures

The Blacksburg Police Department's approved fiscal year 2010/2011 budget contains expenditures of \$7,082,514. The graph below represents how those monies were spent during the course of the fiscal year.



# Uniform Crime Report Statistics

The Uniform Crime Report represents statistics submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The seven crimes shown below are known as the Crime Index. 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 a calls being reclassified as unfounded or as matters civil in nature, following police response.

Type of Crime	2009	2010	2011
Murder & Attempts	0	0	0
Rape & Attempts	15	14	15
Robbery	12	9	6
Felonious Assault	19	13	227
Burglary	168	128	73
Larceny	481	709	488
Motor Vehicle Theft	30	27	16

Cases Cleared by Arrest or Which Remain Active/Pending	2009	2010	2011
Murder & Attempts	0	0	0
Rape & Attempts	8	11	3
Robbery	8	9	3
Felonious Assault	14	11	10
Burglary	99	85	55
Larceny	135	343	122
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	18	13

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	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	4	3	0	1	15
Robbery	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
Felonious Assault	8	22	15	20	22	14	12	15	25	35	20	19	227
Burglary	4	3	5	3	2	8	7	6	7	13	10	5	73
Larceny	37	37	52	50	46	28	25	37	59	47	45	25	488
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	2	2	1	1	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>825</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.

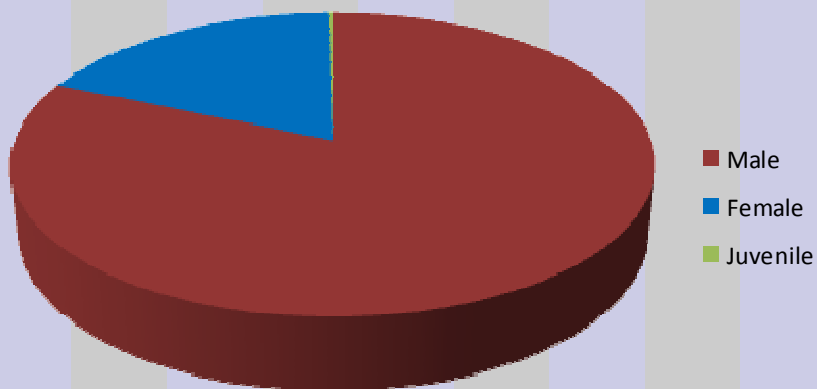
During the calendar year 2011 there were no internal affairs investigations of personnel complaints. This is a significant reduction from the previous two years.

Internal Affairs and Personnel Complaints	2009	2010	2011	TOTAL	Percentage
Unfounded Complaint	0	2	0	2	22%
Employee Exonerated	0	0	0	0	0%
Complaint Not Sustained	0	0	0	0	0%
Complaint Sustained	2	4	0	6	67%
Policy Review	0	0	0	0	0%
Other	1	0	0	1	11%
TOTAL	3	6	0	9	100%

# Physical Arrests

During 2011, the Blacksburg Police Department arrested 1,173 individuals averaging 98 arrest per month. Of the arrested individuals in 2011, 81.5% were male, 18% were female and 0.2% were juveniles.

Month	Adult Male	Adult Female	Juvenile	TOTAL
January	48	16	0	64
February	74	11	0	85
March	82	11	1	94
April	84	15	0	99
May	81	25	0	106
June	57	8	0	65
July	54	23	0	77
August	85	18	0	103
September	117	29	2	148
October	153	35	0	188
November	68	14	0	82
December	53	9	0	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>956</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1173</b>



## Traffic Enforcement and Crash Investigation

The table below lists some common infractions drivers were cited for in 2011 and the totals in each category. The list does not include all infraction types. In 2011 there were 5,914 summons issued.

Charge	Citation Total
46.2-874 - Speeding In A 25 Mph Zone	704
46.2-830 - Fail To Obey Highway Sign	460
46.2-646 - Expired State Tags	451
46.2-878.2 - Maximum Speed Limits in Certain Districts of Counties, Cities, and Towns	435
46.2-821 - Vehicles Before Entering Certain Highways Shall Stop Or Yield Right-Of-Way	399
46.2-1094 - Failure To Wear Seatbelt	380
46.2-875 - Speeding In A 35 Mph Zone	320
46.2-870 - Maximum Speed Limits	312
46.2-1157 Expired Inspection Of Motor Vehicle	219
46.2-1158 - Expired Rejection Decal	200

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. Local media outlets recognized the Blacksburg Police Department for this additional initiative.

The Blacksburg Police Department observed a reduction in motor vehicle accidents that were associated with speed or alcohol from 2010. The percentage of crashes related to speed in 2010 was 6.0% compared to 1.2% of crashes in 2011. The percentage of alcohol related to crashes in 2010 was 1.33% of crashes compared to 3.15% in 2011. Crashes overall in 2011 decreased by 17.8% compared to 2010. Crashes that caused injuries decreased from 78 in 2010 to 40 in 2011. The additional impaired driving saturation patrols and special speed enforcement details that took place in 2011 were a factor in this significant decrease.

# Crash Investigation Continued

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 (BRRCT).

In 2011 the Blacksburg Police Department was awarded a grant for the purchase of a Total Station Scene Surveying tool to aid in crash reconstruction. Access to this type of system eliminates any time delay in investigations and reliance on other agencies. Valuable time and resources have been saved allowing for quicker and reliable investigations in the field. Also, the diagrams with complex 3-D surfaces and immersive 360-degree images have allowed for better representations of crime scene when presenting information and evidence in court.



# 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. 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 2011, 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

## Police 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 two Patrol Canine Handlers and two drug dogs which allows for accessibility of use and strengthens the department's enforcement activities. 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 R.S. Combs and Chesty



Officer J.C. Blackburn and Zombie

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.



# Police Operations Division

## Emergency Response Team (E.R.T.)

The Blacksburg Police Department Emergency Response Team is comprised of thirteen highly trained officers performing 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.

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 and ten team members. 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.



Several agencies train together  
for tactical response



BPD Emergency Response Team

# 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 2011 the Center's Communications Officers dispatched 33,877 calls for emergency services on the Police Department's computer aided dispatch (CAD) system.

Year	Calls for Service	Increase/Decrease
2009	27,353	N/A
2010	23,529	-14
2011	33,877	44





# 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 and six Detectives prepared to respond to crimes as needed, around the clock. Additionally, a member of the CIU participates with the FBI and other Federal and local agencies in a Joint Terrorism Task Force.

In 2011, the Criminal Investigations Unit initiated 213 investigative cases, making 101 criminal arrests. The CIU maintained a 84% clearance rate this past year.



Blacksburg Police Criminal Investigations Unit

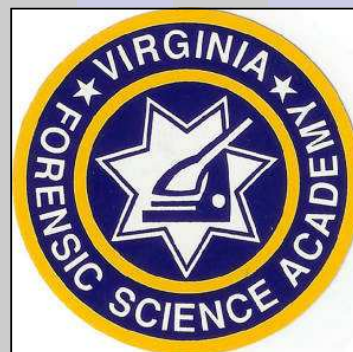
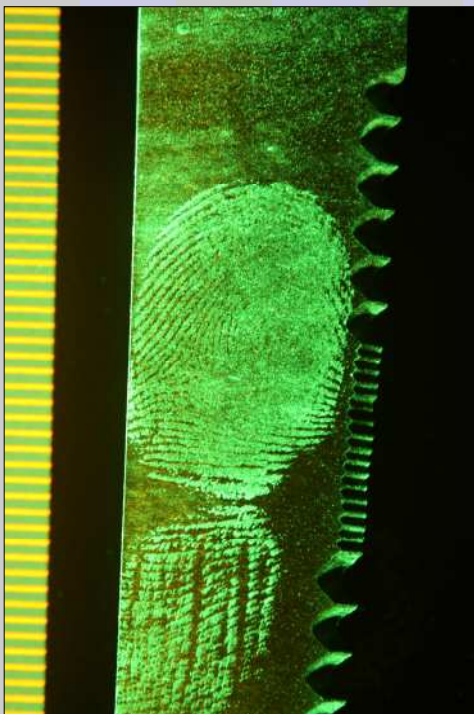
## **New River Regional Drug Task Force**

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.

# 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 2011 Forensic Detective M.P. Czernicki and Evidence Technician E.F. Moore processed and/or handled 1,350 pieces of evidence and executed 169 evidentiary court orders.



# 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 2012, roughly 300 fifth grade students between six 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 three full time Police Services Officers and their 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 2011, the facility processed a total of 405 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

The Blacksburg Police Department employs 8 part-time School Crossing Guards; a significant component in our effort to help keep children safe. 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 2011, Blacksburg Police officers issued 6,357 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.



24th Session Citizens Police Academy graduates



25th Session Citizens Police Academy graduates

# Department Grants

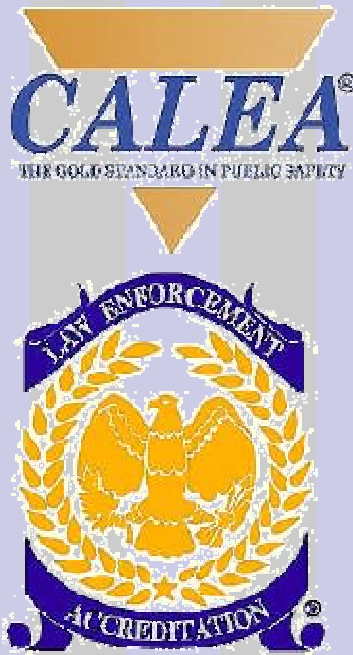
Annually, the Blacksburg Police Department applies for grant monies to fund selective enforcement activities. The grants are submitted to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles and the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control. This directed patrol and enforcement activity targets specific enforcement issues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

The Blacksburg Police Department was awarded funds in September of 2010 of \$30,130 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Safety Funds through the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles to target speed, safety belt, child safety seats and driving under the influence offenses into 2011. The Blacksburg Police Department was also awarded \$30,130 in 2011 to continue these efforts into 2012. Under a DMV speed enforcement grant, Blacksburg Police officers worked 738 extra-duty hours enforcing speed limits, occupant protection laws and other moving violations, as well as seeking out DUI drivers. In 2011, officers issued 558 traffic citations and made 1 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 2010 the agency received its' sixth award 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. In 2010 the Blacksburg Police Department received their second consecutive rating of *Flagship Agency*, awarded to CALEA-accredited law enforcement agencies that have demonstrated success in the accreditation process. The Flagship Agency program also provides agencies seeking accreditation with examples of "best practices" on how to address compliance, policy development, file maintenance, and other issues relating to the accreditation process. The Blacksburg Police Department is honored to have been recognized. The Blacksburg Police Department will be evaluated again for CALEA compliance in 2013.



# 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 Derick W. Crouse*

*Virginia Tech Police Department*

*End of Watch*

*December 8, 2011*