

# Fredericksburg Police Department



Annual Report  
Calendar Year 2009



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# **Fredericksburg Police Department**

## **Annual Report — Calendar Year 2009**

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The Fredericksburg Police Department mourned the loss of Cpl. Clarke's K9 partner, Joker, who died suddenly while off-duty at home in December.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

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**F**or the Fredericksburg Police Department, the year 2009 was distinguished by acts of commemoration and tribute to Officer Todd Bahr. The murder of Officer Bahr on June 6, 2008 was a heartbreaking event which forced us to learn lessons that will never be forgotten. The year following his death was filled with opportunities to remember Todd and honor him. With the construction of a permanent memorial to Officer Bahr in front of our Headquarters and the addition of his name to the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington D.C., the members of the Fredericksburg Police Department have purposefully taken the steps toward healing from the tragic loss of one of our own.



The aftermath of Todd's shooting revealed a solid strength of resolve within the agency and reminded us that we truly belong to the community that we serve.

This year's annual report highlights a number of successful initiatives that must be credited to the hard work and dedication of our employees. In 2009, the Fredericksburg Police Department became the first agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia to implement electronic ticketing, paving the way for other localities to take advantage of this time-saving technology. For the second year in a row, the Community Police Officers hosted their "Managing the Nightlife" seminars aimed at reducing the problems associated with bars and nightspots.

Also in 2009, the Special Equipment and Tactical Team spent an enormous amount of time and effort building a massive confidence course for physical training and team-building exercises, and a member of our Crisis Negotiator Team wrote an article (reprinted here) that describes in vivid detail the scenario training that prepares its team members for emergency incidents that could occur at any time. These programs are all designed to enable the public safety professionals who work for the Fredericksburg Police Department to deliver an optimum level of service to our citizens.

The City of Fredericksburg has long been recognized for its safe and livable communities, and I am pleased to report that the incidents of serious criminal activity during 2009 decreased in every category but one. This measurable reduction in crime occurred despite the depressed economy, and hopefully will be a continuing trend in the future. Although it is too early to positively link the reduction in crime to recent changes in patrol tactics, our department's emphasis on proactive strategies and community-based policing have created strong bonds between the officers who patrol the streets and the citizens who live and work within our boundaries. We continue to uphold our mission to *“enhance the quality of life in our community by protecting the right of all citizens to live in peace and safety...”*

While our mission statement captures the broadest sense of the Police Department's purpose and duty, the year 2009 also marked a substantial internal achievement for our department when we were awarded national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This accomplishment has been a high priority objective since 2005, and the goal could not have been reached without the dedication and tremendous efforts of the entire agency.

Accreditation affirms that our agency embraces the best practices and highest standards of professional law enforcement, and that we do so voluntarily and with a willingness to be judged for our actions. The attainment of CALEA accreditation is something of which I am very proud, as it is tangible evidence of our commitment to excellence in every detail of our operation.



# ACCREDITATION

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**F**ollowing a rigorous three-year process of self-evaluation and review, the Fredericksburg Police Department achieved national accreditation on November 21, 2009 from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA accreditation represents the satisfactory completion of a comprehensive agency-wide evaluation concluded by an exacting outside appraisal by a team of independent assessors. CALEA accreditation affirms that the agency has met the requirements of a highly regarded and broadly recognized body of law enforcement standards and a demonstrated commitment to professional law enforcement in policy and practice.

Accreditation had been a top priority for the department since Chief Nye assumed the leadership position in 2005. In 2006, the department began the process by identifying the steps required to achieve the goal. One of the first steps was the assignment of Lieutenant Jim Lynch as Accreditation Manager to oversee the process and complete the multitude of required tasks.

CALEA's accreditation goals include:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities;
- Formalize essential management procedures;
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices;
- Improve service delivery;
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency.

Accreditation benefits both the agency and the community we serve. Accreditation increases the community's confidence in the competency of the department, and it strengthens the agency's accountability through the adoption of a continuum of standards that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities.

The accreditation process required a complete re-write, with internal review and discussion, of the Department Directives and the creation of files that illustrate the CALEA standards and show the department's proof of compliance.



There are hundreds of mandatory standards and an even greater number of applicable proof files, illustrating the enormous scope of this full-time project. The accreditation process finalized with an on-site review from veteran assessors, resulting in a finding of 100% compliance with CALEA's mandatory standards.

Chief David W. Nye: "This is an outstanding accomplishment for all of the men and women of the Fredericksburg Police Department, and I am very proud of our achievement."



*Fredericksburg Police Command Staff with the CALEA Assessors following the on-site assessment. L-R: Captain Brent Taylor, Detective Division; Captain W.G. Musselman, Support Services Division; Major Terry Clanton, Kannapolis Police Department; Executive Director Geoff Ice, Connecticut State Police Alumni Education Foundation; Chief David Nye, Captain Richard Pennock, Patrol Division*



# REMEMBERING TODD BAHR



In 2009, the members of the Police Department faced the first anniversary of the death of Todd Bahr by planning and participating in a number of events to honor and remember him. On April 30, Todd's name was added to the National Police Memorial in Washington D.C. and he was also paid tribute at a candlelight vigil and ceremonies that culminated National Police Week.





## POLICE UNITY TOUR

On May 11 during National Police Week, the Virginia chapter of the Police Unity Tour, consisting of over 300 bike riders and support crew members, rode through the City of Fredericksburg on the second leg of its three-day, 270 mile journey. The Tour stopped at Police Headquarters for rest and refuel, and then all the participants made a brief detour from the route to pay their respects at the site nearby where Officer Bahr was shot and killed on June 6, 2008. The Tour had a profound emotional impact on both the participants and spectators as the riders turned from Cowan Blvd onto the newly named Todd Bahr Drive, leading to our agency Headquarters.



Six members of the Fredericksburg Police Department rode in the Unity Tour to pay homage to Todd for his service and sacrifice. Through fundraisers and private donations, the Fredericksburg team raised over \$13,000 on behalf of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

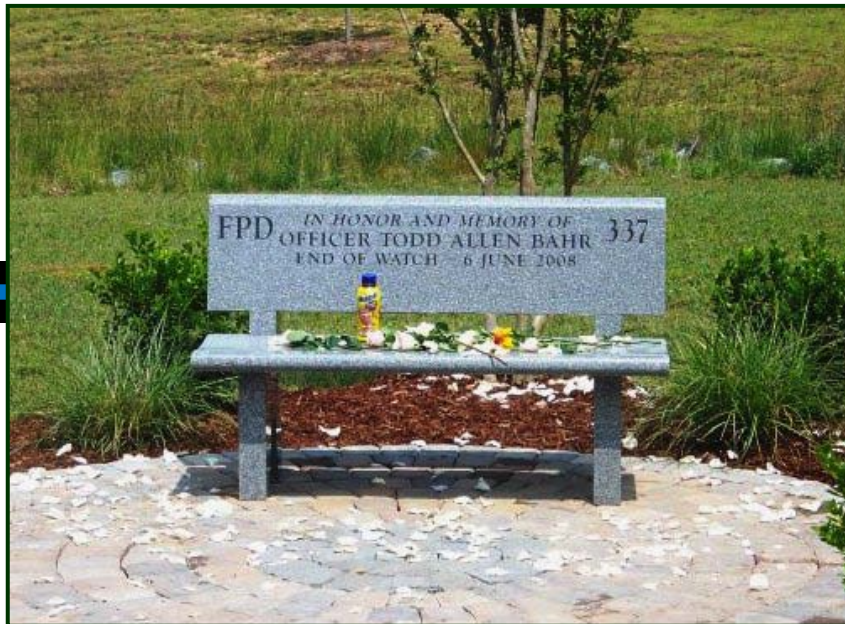


*Unity Tour Team riders (L-R): Barry Taylor, Mike Presutto, Ted Marrs, Julie Keene, Bill Hallam, Ted Hartung with support members (seated) Tracy Ulmer and Debbie Marrs*

## MEMORIAL BENCH



**T**odd's squad mates arranged for the design and donation of a memorial bench in his honor, and early in 2009 they created a landscaped garden for the placement of the bench in front of Police Headquarters. On June 6, one year after his death, the bench and garden were dedicated to Officer Todd Allen Bahr in a ceremony attended by friends, family, and colleagues.



The following page contains the text of the speech presented by Chief Nye at the bench dedication ceremony:



**One year ago today, June 6, 2008**, I started my day just as I start every day. I went to McDonalds and ate hotcakes and had a Diet Coke for breakfast. **June 6** was the day of the Torch Run last year, and I ran it with Phil Rodenberg, Kathleen Dooley, Barry Taylor, and Lloyd Holland. I remember being upset that so few people participated. **One year ago today**, I learned that one of our new officers, who had just graduated from the Police Academy, decided that law enforcement was not for him and he wanted to resign from the department. While I respected his decision, I remember being disappointed that this new recruit would no longer be a member of our agency. **On June 6, 2008**, I attended the retirement ceremony for Mr. Ed Evers, who retired after 30 years of leading the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy. I remember being anxious about the uncertainty that accompanies change. None of those small worries or disappointments even came close to comparing to what came later that day. **One year ago today**, I received a phone call that was without doubt the most shattering single moment in my entire career in law enforcement. We all know and accept the risks that come with being a police officer, or a deputy, and we all have learned to face these risks every day.

But nothing can prepare a person for that moment when we learn of the death of a friend, a colleague, a brother in uniform, a squad mate. Nothing can prepare a wife, a mother, a father for the loss of their loved one to such unexpected and seemingly senseless tragedy.

**One year ago today**, we lost one of the finest people I've ever known. The death of Todd Bahr struck at the very core of this department, and was a painful reminder of the genuine danger that we all face when we choose to join the ranks of law enforcement. Todd was killed while he was trying to protect someone **whom he had never even met**, because his duty and his mission as a police officer was to protect and serve, all of us. That's the kind of person Todd was, and I want us all to remember that. But since last June, I have come to understand some larger lessons in Todd's death. **One year ago today**, I believe was a **defining moment** for the Fredericksburg Police Department. A defining moment is a point at which the essential nature or character of a person, group, or organization is revealed or identified. The death of our friend and fellow officer Todd Bahr clearly revealed the fundamental character of this agency, and of this community. **On the night of June 6**, every available officer and employee who was physically able to do so, returned to work to offer help, to offer their expertise, or to simply stand in support, shoulder to shoulder with others who were also shocked and grieving. **One year ago today**, our parking lot was full and overflowing with vehicles from the State Police, from the Spotsylvania and Stafford Sheriff's Offices, the Fire Department, the Fredericksburg Sheriff's Office, the Park Service, and the University of Mary Washington Police. Our neighboring law enforcement agencies made it very clear that we were not alone that night, and in the days that followed.

**We were not alone**, and for that I remain very grateful.

The Fredericksburg community also revealed how much they care about us, and how much our loss had affected them. We received so many cards and letters, wreaths and flowers and other mementos, phone calls and emails. We received gifts of food and care packages from Girl Scout troops and retirement homes, from neighbors here on Cowan Blvd and from school groups. We heard personal stories about Todd from different people who had been touched by his compassion and his humanity. We received donations from businesses and from individuals to assist with the aftermath of his death, and we appreciate so much all of those generous thoughts and gestures. A day or so after Todd's death, we were contacted by two kids who live next-door to us here in the apartment complex, and these boys wanted to leave a note on Todd's car to tell him how much they missed him. Apparently Todd was in the habit of talking with these boys and checking up on them when they walked from their apartment building over to shoot some basketball at Hugh Mercer Elementary in the afternoons. That seemingly small amount of consideration made a big impression on these kids, and it reminds us that the loss of a person like Todd can have an enormous impact beyond that of our own individual perspective. Todd will forever be missed by his family, by his friends and colleagues at the Police Department, and by people like these kids whose lives he touched every day. A lot has been said and a lot has been written about the circumstances surrounding Todd's death. And because of who we are and what we do, it was very important for us to study and investigate fully the events that encompassed the tragic moment when Todd was shot and killed. But it's also very important to not let Todd's *death* overshadow Todd's *life*. It was Todd's life that was unique, and extraordinary, and meaningful. It was the way Todd lived his life that guarantees that he will never be forgotten. John F. Kennedy said: **"The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy."** I hope that this memorial will help us all remember and reflect upon the triumph of Todd's life.

## AMERICA'S MOST WANTED ALL-STAR



In March, Officer Joe Young was nominated to *America's Most Wanted's* All-Star Heroes due to his courageous actions on the night of Todd's death, and the entire City of Fredericksburg applauded his selection as a national finalist. Joe's recognition as an All-Star celebrated his bravery and exceptional tactical thinking in the immediate aftermath of the shooting that claimed Todd's life. Joe's actions are credited with saving the lives of innocent civilians as well as other officers and deputies who responded to assist the Police Department that night.



*Officer Joe Young appears on Fox 5 News — Photo Courtesy of Fox 5 News*

# ELECTRONIC TICKETING

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**L**ike the launch of autoChalk in 2007, the Police Department has once again shown leadership in adopting advanced technologies in law enforcement by becoming the first jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia to implement electronic ticketing.



*Officer Tom Evans demonstrates the E-ticketing software — Photo courtesy of Peter Cihelka, Free Lance-Star*

E-ticketing allows an officer to use computer devices in the Patrol car to create an electronic version of the Virginia Uniform Summons. A hand-held scanner reads the barcode on an offender's driver's license, and the information contained on the license is automatically populated into the citation,

eliminating the requirement for hand-written multiple copies. Once the summons is issued, the information is then electronically transmitted to the Police Department's in-house records storage system (PISTOL) and to the Virginia Supreme Court, which sends the summons to the appropriate district court for subsequent adjudication. An in-car printer creates a hard copy for the offender and for the officer's files.

The primary advantages of e-ticketing include:

- Eliminating human error from hand-written tickets
- Significant time savings gained by the elimination of manual data entry of citations into Pistol

E-ticketing became available to the Fredericksburg Police Department through the award of grant funds from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). There are currently 12 patrol cars outfitted for e-ticketing, and the Police Department has received additional grant funding from DCJS to expand electronic ticketing throughout the fleet.



# SPECIAL EQUIPMENT TACTICAL TEAM

The Special Equipment Tactical Team (SETT) is made up of eleven officers with a combined total of eighty years of experience as law enforcement professionals. The SETT team is deployed for high risk operations that require entry and clearing techniques outside of standard policing parameters.

In 2009, SETT members participated in over 1200 hours of specialized training and were called out for nine tactical response missions. To qualify for membership on the team, an applicant must pass a demanding physical agility test, sit before an oral review board, and show advanced proficiency with department issued firearms. Once accepted, a new team member must then graduate from SWAT school, a physically and mentally challenging seven day course that teaches students a foundation of tactical knowledge and skills upon which to build their own experiences.



To better prepare team members for the challenges they face in SETT operations, the team members designed and constructed a "confidence course" on Police Department property located within the secure rear parking lot.



The course consists of a dozen demanding obstacles that test an individual's physical strength and agility and also allow for team-building exercises. With donations of materials from the community, the SETT team members spent countless hours constructing each of the massive obstacles, completing an impressive course that will be in use by our own agency and others for years to come.



# CRISIS NEGOTIATION TEAM

*A version of the following article appeared in the Spring edition of Crisis Negotiator, a publication of the National Tactical Officers Association.*

It was a dark October night. A cold rain beat a staccato rhythm against the sides of a small fire department van that served as a makeshift NOC for our newly formed Crisis Negotiations Team. Outside the windows, black clad figures carrying automatic rifles moved swiftly and silently into position, setting up a perimeter around the two story office building. Inside the business, a lone gunman was holding six employees hostage. The

gunman was no stranger to his victims. Up until two days ago they had all worked together, trading small talk around their cubicles. Then the layoffs began. And this particular employee, who had recently lost his wife and was facing foreclosure on his home, had reached his limit. Now he was back and demanding blood from the boss who fired him and acknowledgement from the world that he'd been wronged.



Once the Special Equipment and Tactical Team (SETT) members were in place, the call came down from command to make contact with the gunman. Our primary negotiator, backed by a coach and four team members, placed the initial call from a wireless phone. The call was picked up on the first ring and an angry male voice shouted into the receiver.

The game was on.





For the next three hours, the SETT team members maintained their positions in the freezing rain as the Negotiators used all their training in seemingly endless attempts to restore calm in the mind of a desperate man. At times we seemed to be making progress, deploying the Rescue Phone without incident and delivering food when demanded in exchange for a wounded hostage. Eventually however, it became clear that negotiations were stalling and the risk to the hostages was increasing. The decision was made by the on-scene commander to make a tactical entry. While the Primary Negotiator distracted the gunman on the phone, the SETT Team tossed in a percussion grenade and made their assault. In seconds the gunman was disarmed and on the ground. As the smoke cleared, the SETT team lowered their weapons and stood down. The gunman struggled to his feet, cracked a shaky smile and commended the team on their impressive take down. The Negotiators joined the group and everyone exchanged high fives, celebrating a successful ending to the first joint training exercise of the Fredericksburg City Police Department's Crisis Negotiator and SETT teams. For the next thirty minutes, team members and role players traded insights on what went right and what went wrong in the training scenario. Valuable insights were gained that night that would improve the abilities of both specialized teams to respond when the inevitable "real thing" came calling.

When he was hired in January 2005, one of the Chief's first missions was to upgrade our already established Special Equipment and Tactical Team and add to it two new units, the Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) and a Tactical EMS Team (TEMS) for medical trauma support. Using grant monies and capitalizing on the availability of the FBI's training bureau located in nearby Quantico, Virginia. Chief Nye put together a team of ten negotiators pulled from the ranks of Patrol, Detective Division, Communications, and Crime Analysis. After a rigorous selection process, the candidates were enrolled in the FBI's intensive week-long negotiator training program and equipped like the other response teams to be on call 24 hours a day for barricade incidents or hostage situations in the City. The Chief also decided that in order for all teams to operate as a single effective crisis response unit, we needed to train together intensely and often. So now, while each team meets separately once a month, we also gather at least four times per year for large scale training scenarios like the one described above.



In the past twelve months, these scenarios have included a terrorist-like takeover of a commuter train which we were able to accomplish with the help of the Virginia Railway Express, an active shooter incident at the University involving multiple fatalities and a barricaded gunman, a residential domestic squabble turned deadly, and the aforementioned office building siege. The Railway Express scenario proved particularly challenging. The hostage takers spoke only Spanish and the distance between the train and the initial placement of the NOC precluded deployment of the throw phone onto the train. We do have two members on our team who are fluent in Spanish so they were chosen to establish contact. The question became how to do this safely. After a quick conference between team commanders, our Primary Negotiator was fitted with a tactical vest and helmet, handed an electric “bull horn”, and escorted by tactical team members to a culvert near the edge of the tracks. This closed the distance and allowed negotiators to make initial contact with the suspects but it necessitated putting an unarmed negotiator in the direct line of fire for the first time. It was after this scenario that our Negotiation Team Leader requested and received two tactical vests and helmets to be stored with our team supplies, making readily available if this situation ever arises again. This is a good example of how realistic, full response scenario training allows equipment and logistical issues to be solved before real lives are on the line.

Working side by side for long hours in these training scenarios, the tactical and negotiation team members obtained real knowledge and appreciation of how each team approaches a crisis. Equipment and communication issues were ironed out, misunderstandings and minor conflicts resolved and a strong sense of mission and camaraderie was established that would aid us all well in real life incidents. Over the last two years, those incidents have taken multiple forms, including a traumatized Iraqi war



veteran threatening his girlfriend, a bar fight that escalated into gunfire and murder, a barricaded armed robbery suspect, and a fugitive from justice holed up in a hotel room with a female and unknown weapons. In addition to these callouts, our team also provides two negotiators that accompany the SETT team on high risk search warrants and drug raids. All of these operations have ended peacefully in arrests without a single shot being fired. We are all aware that those desirable outcomes are due in no small part to each component's willingness to view itself as part of a larger group whose members all share the same mission: to save human lives and assist in the administration of justice.

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Author Mary Jo Blake has been a Communications Officer with the Fredericksburg Police Department for more than thirteen years. She holds a degree in psychology from the University of Mary Washington. Ms Blake is a current member of both the Crisis Negotiation Team and the Critical Incident Stress Management Team.



# COMMUNITY POLICING

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The officers assigned to community policing continued to make significant strides toward their larger goals of strengthening the relationship between the Police Department and the people that we serve. The Community Police Officers (CPOs) participated in numerous neighborhood events such as Movie Nights, National Night Out, and safety walks, and they engaged the residents of their neighborhoods to assist the police in preventing and solving crime.

## Fall Hill Avenue corridor CPOs:



Officer Ken Camp



Officer Carlos Reyes

## Hazel Hill/Darbytown CPO:



Sergeant Jim Kuebler

## Mayfield CPO:



Officer Ron Swaney

Fredericksburg's CPOs also took the initiative to address problems related to alcohol consumption at city establishments by establishing educational seminars for employees of bars, restaurants, and nightclubs. Called Managing the Nightlife, the two-pronged approach of education and enforcement addressed critical objectives necessary to reduce crime and disorder at these establishments.

The success of the initiative hinged upon establishing a partnership with the Fredericksburg Fire Department, the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Board (ABC), the Commonwealth's Attorney, patrol supervisors, and most importantly the bar owners and managers.

The educational element took the form of a two hour training class developed in collaboration with the Fire Marshal, the regional ABC Agent, and the Commonwealth's Attorney.

The seminars held at the Police Department were designed to address four major topics:

- 1) Fire Codes & Occupancy Limits
- 2) ABC Regulations & State Alcohol Laws
- 3) Fake IDs & Tips for Dealing with Intoxicated People
- 4) Legal Issues & Liability

The seminars began with the Fire Marshal showing a video of a 2003 fire that occurred at a nightclub in Rhode Island resulting in the death of more than 100 people due to overcrowding and fire code violations. The video graphically documents the event from start to finish, and depicts many of the same overcrowding and fire code violations encountered in local bars. The Fire Marshal then reviewed applicable occupancy and fire codes, explained the requirements for annual fire inspections, and fielded questions from the participants.



The ABC Agent assigned to the region gave the next presentation. He reviewed state laws governing the sale of alcoholic beverages to include the prohibition against serving an intoxicated person, third party sales to underage persons, and limits on hours of operation. He explained ABC regulations, corrected common misinterpretations, and explained the process of taking administrative action against the licensee for violations. The ABC Agent then provided tips for refusing a sale and fielded questions from the participants.

The FPD officers covered tips for recognizing fraudulent identification and dealing with intoxicated persons. The presentation provided examples of common techniques used to alter or fabricate identification, as well as tips on what questions to ask of the person presenting the identification. The officers also provided tips for preempting confrontations with intoxicated people and fielded questions from the participants.

The Commonwealth's Attorney explained the criteria for legal use of force by bouncers and staff, and discussed criminal consequences and civil liability should illegal force be used by employees. She also explained nuisance laws and fielded questions from the participants.

Participants received handouts of applicable laws and ABC regulations, literature from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and a handbook containing photo examples of valid identifications issued in the US. Using Police Department employees and family members as models, the officers produced Holiday-themed posters promoting the use of designated drivers. These were distributed to participants and personally delivered to the bars and convenience stores throughout the City.





*Don't start the New Year on  
the wrong foot!  
Leave the keys. Call a cab.*



The men and women of the Fredericksburg Police Department wish you a safe and happy Holiday Season. *Please, don't drink and drive.*

*-Chief David Nye*

The enforcement element of the program took the form of an inspection team conducting random visits to bars. The team included the Community Police Officers, the Fire Marshal, and the ABC Agent. The Fire Marshal checked for compliance with fire and occupancy codes, the ABC Agent checked for compliance with ABC regulations, the officer checked for customers who appeared to be over-served or underage, and the community police Sergeant handled questions and concerns from employees or customers.

Patrol officers participated in the enforcement effort by attempting to identify where offenders in alcohol violations had

been drinking. Events that involved regulatory violations on the part of a bar were forwarded to the regional ABC Agent for administrative action against the establishment's liquor license. This also allowed the Community Police Officers to identify bars that were continuing to over-serve customers.

The Community Police Officers evaluated the effectiveness of Managing the Nightlife by tracking calls for service, crime reports, and arrests. The Fire Marshal and ABC Agent tracked the level of compliance with fire codes and ABC regulations and reported their findings to the officers.

Managing the Nightlife proved to be a successful initiative that increased police "ownership" of the problem and also inspired a similar initiative aimed at reducing problems attributable to the City's homeless population. The effectiveness of these initiatives, along with the significant positive changes in the designated community policing neighborhoods, has greatly increased support for community policing and has prompted a greater interest in problem solving on the part of officers as well as other community stakeholders.



# AWARDS

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The Fredericksburg Police Department recognizes the accomplishments and outstanding efforts of its employees by selecting an officer and a civilian employee to receive awards for Officer of the Quarter and Employee of the Quarter. The recipients are chosen by the Awards Committee, which solicits nominations and reviews the candidates. From those award recipients the Awards Committee then chooses, with the concurrence of the Chief of Police, the most deserving individuals to receive recognition as Officer and Employee of the Year. In addition, the committee also chooses the Auxiliary Officer of the Year from those who are nominated. In 2009, the following outstanding members of the department were selected for recognition:

## **Officer of the Year: Detective Gray Hopkins**

Assigned to the Regional Gang Task Force, Gray was selected as the Officer of the Year due to his outstanding and professional work efforts. Gray was instrumental in the dismantling of a local MS-13 gang, thus contributing to the safety and security of our entire community. Gray spent hundreds of hours conducting surveillance, interviewing involved parties, making field contact reports, and recording photographs of gang members and their associates. He worked closely with local, state, and federal agencies to strengthen the cases against our local offenders and to build valuable relationships within our law enforcement community. As a result of Gray's work with the Task Force, eleven of the fourteen identified members of a local MS-13 gang have been arrested, and most were considered aggravated felons allowing them to be immediately removed from the country by Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Detective Hopkins is an enormous asset to our department and we are fortunate to benefit from his expertise and dedication.





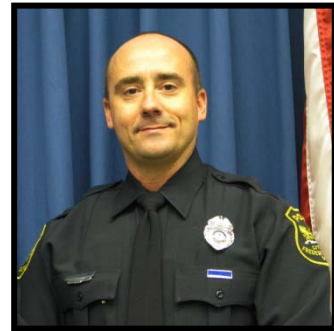
## **Employee of the Year: Kathy Belrose**

Kathy was selected as the Employee of the Year due to her monumental efforts in the Records section. Kathy demonstrated exceptional efficiency in assuming the responsibility for the entry of all traffic and criminal summons into the Records Management System, as well as all of the information from the Central Criminal Records Exchange. In addition to handling the front desk of Records and a number of diverse daily administrative tasks, she enters large numbers of records into the internal database (Pistol), transfers photos from Picture Link, and provides accident reports to DMV. Kathy's daily tasks are too numerous to name, but she does it all with extreme dedication, commitment, and an outstanding work ethic, and she is a huge contributing factor to the success of our mission.



## **Auxiliary Officer of the Year: John Fesq**

John donates countless hours of his personal time to assist the department and serve the community. He is always willing to work whenever we are short-staffed, he fills in for officers when they take vacation, and he consistently volunteers for large events that require additional uniformed officers on the street. He willingly takes report calls that require follow-up and he has never failed to be in court when scheduled. Officer Fesq is a valuable asset to the Fredericksburg Police Department.



# CRIME STATISTICS

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CRIME STATISTICAL REPORT			
	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2008	Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 2009	CHANGE
Murder and Non-Negligent Homicide	2	2	0
Forcible Rape (Count by # of Victims)	8	6	-2
Robbery	46	22	-24
Aggravated Assault (Count by # of Victims)	78	85	+7
Burglary/ Breaking & Entering	102	98	-4
Larceny	1,014	981	-33
Motor Vehicle Theft	59	25	-34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,309</b>	<b>1,219</b>	<b>-90</b>

The above chart represents the number of reported major crimes in calendar years 2008 and 2009. The statistics in the above comparison may differ from those published in the Virginia State Police Crime Report and from previous annual reports for one or more reasons, most commonly because the case status or classification of a report may have changed since the publishing of either document.

Bi-weekly reports compiled by the Crime Analyst assist in the collection of data related to reportable criminal activity as defined by state law. The statistics reveal trends that help shape enforcement strategies and the deployment of department resources. In Fredericksburg in 2009, every category of major crime with the exception of aggravated assaults, showed a reduction in the number of reports. The number of homicides remained the same from 2008 to 2009.

While it is impossible to conclusively explain the decrease in personal and property crimes, it is believed that the reduction in larcenies and robberies can be attributed in part to the arrests of several offenders who were responsible for multiple incidents. The removal of each of these offenders thereby drastically reduced the number of continued repeated criminal acts.

In 2009 the most significant reductions in major crimes occurred in the categories of robbery and motor vehicle theft. It is important to note that both of these crime classifications had reported *increases* in 2008, so the decreases during the past calendar year represent a leveling of the statistics to previous norms.

The only increase in a major crime classification was in the number of victims of aggravated assault.

## **HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS**

Both of the homicides that occurred in 2009 resulted in the quick arrest and subsequent conviction of the offenders.

On January 6 shortly after 1:30 am, officers responded to Mary Washington Hospital when 23-year-old Jamair Ellis was brought in suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. Ellis' friend had rushed him to the hospital after witnessing the shooting in the parking lot of Forest Village Apartments. Detectives quickly developed a strong suspect in the case, and later in the day 27-year-old Toronto Eura was arrested at his home in Prince William County and charged with first-degree murder.

On the morning of April 20, Kristina Lee Burd was found deceased inside an apartment belonging to her friends. The 20-year-old from King George County had died from an overdose of heroine and other narcotics. Through subsequent investigation, it was determined that 42-year-old Ronnie Smith supplied the victim with the drugs that killed her and assisted in their administration. Smith was arrested on May 2 and is currently serving his jail sentence.



*Detective Tim Garrett — Photo courtesy of Robert Martin, Free Lance-Star*

# LOOKING AHEAD

Known for innovative approaches to policing, the Fredericksburg Police Department was the first jurisdiction in the nation to implement autoChalk for parking enforcement and the first locality in the Commonwealth of Virginia to apply electronic ticketing in the patrol vehicles. As we look ahead into 2010 and beyond, the following examples demonstrate our commitment to advanced practices in law enforcement.

## FACEBOOK

In the latter part of 2009, the Police Department reached out to the public in a new format, using the social networking site Facebook to transmit information and engage in a contemporary approach to dialogue. Facebook allows the department to promote itself through a widely accessible medium, and the interactivity of the site is a measurable means of our impact in the community and beyond. In 2010, we hope to expand our “fan list” to over 1,000 members and we will continue to use Facebook to enhance our image and our message.

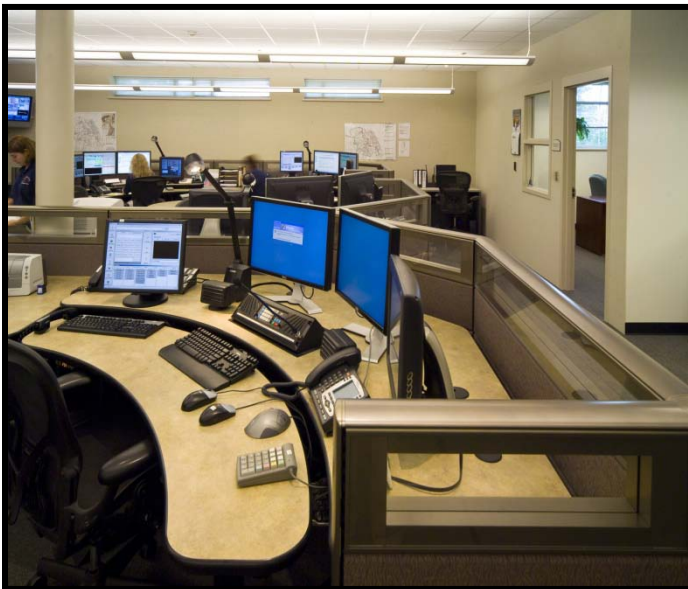
The screenshot shows the Facebook profile of the Fredericksburg Police Department. The page layout includes a top navigation bar with the Facebook logo and a search bar. The main header features the department's name and tabs for Wall, Info, Photos, Discussions, Reviews, and Boxes. Below the header is a status update area with a text input field and a 'Share' button. The left sidebar contains links for editing the page, promoting it, and adding it to favorites, along with a 'Serve. Protect. Inspire.' tagline. The 'Information' section lists the department's location at 2200 Cowan Boulevard, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401, and a phone number. The 'Insights' section shows a post quality score of 15.7 and 0 interactions this week. The 'Fans' section lists 6 of 649 fans, including Linda Britt Arnold, Danni Lewis, and Terri Banks Gamlin. The main content area displays two posts: one for a 'Law Enforcement United Bowling Tournament' and another for 'SETT Training 3/8/2010' featuring photos of officers in training. A comment from Jimmy Ledbetter is visible on the training post.

## Tip411

The Police Department will go live in 2010 with another technologically advanced tool to fight crime called “Tip411”. Tip411 from Citizen Observer is a web-based application that allows cell phone users to send information anonymously to the police via text message. With the wide scale use of cell phones throughout the United States, the Tip411 system will allow our citizens to report a crime or emergency situation without saying a word, providing a secure and easy transmission of potentially valuable information. Text messages require less cell phone power and transmit faster than voice calls, and can be sent even when voice traffic is jammed or signal strength is too low for voice transmissions. The anonymity of the messages will encourage citizens to engage with the police in solving the problems in their communities, making Tip411 a fitting choice for our philosophy of community-based policing strategies.

## CITIZEN’S POLICE ACADEMY

Debuting in April of 2010, the Police Department will offer an eight-week Citizen’s Police Academy hosted at our Cowan Boulevard Headquarters. The Academy will include topics ranging from basic patrol procedures, non-lethal use of force, forensics collection and use of the polygraph, and an in-depth analysis of two significant homicide investigations. The intention of the Citizen’s Police Academy is to educate members of the public about the law enforcement profession and to promote alliance between the Police Department and the citizens we serve.







*Mounted Officer James Shelhorse provides assistance to a visitor in downtown Fredericksburg.*

**FREDERICKSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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*A nationally accredited law enforcement agency*