



# FOCUS ON FRANCONIA

August/September, 2008

## Dates to Remember:

- September 1 ~ Labor Day
- September 2 ~ First Day of School
- September 17 ~ CAC picnic
- September 22 ~ 1st day of Autumn

## A peek inside.....

- Officers of the Quarter
- Reduce Auto Theft
- Mid-Year 2008 Crime Report
- Crime Prevention Program Recognized
- Police Department Wins National Award
- Safe June Campaign
- Take This 60-Second Safety Check
- Police Educate Moped & Scooter Owners
- Major Incidents
- DWI-Directed Patrol Results in Franconia Police District
- Vacant Homes and Buildings
- Foreclosed and Vacant Properties (resources and contacts)
- Know the Rules...School Safety Tips
- Understanding Fairfax County's Noise Ordinance
- Labor Day: Not just the end of summer or a day off .....
- Franconia Police Station Services
- CAC information

## Franconia District Police Station

6121 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
703.922.0889

**Emergency 911**  
Non-emergency



## Officers of the Quarter

**April — June 2008** Master Police Officer Jim Reid

Two recent cases highlight the excellent work that has earned MPO Jim Reid special recognition. A narcotics detective advised Reid that a house in the Franconia district was a suspected source of drugs that deserved more police attention. MPO Reid pulled up the event history for that location and discovered it had been the subject of many neighborhood complaints.

Reid was able to do surveillance on the house and got other officers involved in the investigation as well. Eventually he was able to obtain probable cause to write a search warrant on the property. The TAC Team, Narcotics Unit, and the Strike Team assisted with the execution of the warrant and subsequent search. As a result, the residents were charged with possession of narcotics with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine, possession of a firearm while possessing a narcotic, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

MPO Reid's involvement and efforts resulted in the house being condemned and the occupants evicted. Residents of the entire neighborhood were so appreciative of Jim Reid's hard work they signed and sent him a thank you card.

The second case involved a larceny from a vehicle complaint. The suspect had stolen a wallet and then used one of the owner's credit cards to make a purchase at a local business. MPO Reid obtained the store video of the credit card transaction and was able to identify the suspect with the help of station investigators and the Gang Unit.

One search warrant of the suspect's home had already been unsuccessful in turning up evidence of a similar crime. Armed with new facts, MPO Reid wrote a second search warrant and this time the stolen property was recovered. The suspect was charged with credit card theft, forgery, and fraud for the Franconia case and was also implicated in an earlier case under investigation by CIB.

MPO Reid is a dedicated, resourceful, enthusiastic officer who has become an informal leader on his very young squad. He leads by example and is well deserving of this recognition as *Officer of the Quarter* for April through June, 2008.





## **Officers of the Quarter, con't**

**January—March 2008 PFC Connie E. Gerten**

On the night of January 25, 2008, PFC Connie Gerten was dispatched to 6300 Springfield Plaza, the Hard Times Café, for a report of several intoxicated patrons causing a disturbance and possibly fighting. She and other arriving officers identified three individuals causing the disturbance and asked them to leave. All three men had had their driver's licenses suspended, so they left their car in the parking lot and began walking.

PFC Gerten remained at the restaurant and obtained information linking all three subjects to using and selling narcotics in the restrooms. She immediately alerted surrounding officers and summoned a K-9 officer with a drug-trained partner. The dog "hit" on the suspects' vehicle, which was not locked. A search of the vehicle by PFC Gerten turned up an assortment of narcotics packaged for distribution, as well as the identifications and credit cards belonging to several individuals, not the suspects. In response to PFC Gerten's discovery, officers in the area located the three suspects and arrested them for possession with the intent to distribute narcotics.

Connie Gerten next displayed the kind of dedication and excellence that have earned her this special recognition. She contacted several of the parties whose cards and identifications were in the hands of the arrested suspects and uncovered a string of crimes ranging from narcotics trafficking, to armed robberies, to strong-arm robberies and ultimately at least two bank robberies. One robbery involved a 60-year-old woman who was pepper sprayed and beaten at her own front door.

PFC Gerten spent countless hours processing and separating evidence, contacting both witnesses and victims, and working with detectives from several bureaus within the department. As of this writing, more than 30 charges against the three suspects have been identified and more are on the horizon.

It is her dedication to duty, commitment to excellence, and just plain good police work that distinguish PFC Gerten and have contributed to her selection as the CAC's *Officer of the Quarter* for January to March, 2008.



**October—December 2007 Officer Patrick Brusch**

The "suspicious odor" Officer Brusch was called to investigate last October was suspected marijuana.

He followed his nose and the statements of several neighbors to the front door of one unit. Officer Brusch conducted a "Knock and Talk" at the residence and was given consent to go inside. Once he determined he had the probable cause to believe the odor of marijuana was in fact from that residence, he conducted a protective sweep. Finding what appeared to be more marijuana, Brusch secured the residence and called out members of the Narcotics Unit.

A search warrant uncovered 15 pounds of marijuana, a firearm, and \$40,000 in cash and resulted in multiple charges against the residents of that unit. Police work is about trusting your instincts and going the extra mile and Patrick Brusch proved he does both exceedingly well. His work in this case has earned him the *Officer of the Quarter* award for October to December, 2007.



**..... to all three deserving officers!**

# Fairfax County

## Police Department

### Franconia District Station

## Reduce Auto Theft

**Keep valuables out of sight.** Place personal property in the trunk and take any valuables with you.

**Take your keys.** Never leave your car running un-attended with keys in the ignition. It's very easy for running vehicles to be stolen at convenience stores and gas stations.

**Lock your car.** Approximately 50 percent of stolen vehicles were left unlocked.

**Don't leave the registration in the car.** Keep your registration card in your wallet.

**Keep your car in a locked garage.** Most cars are stolen off the street or from public parking areas. Be sure to still lock the car while it is kept in the garage.

**Park in well-lighted areas at night.** Over half of all vehicle thefts occurred at night.

**Park in attended lots.** Thefts prefer unattended parking lots where there is less chance of them being noticed.

**Use an anti-theft security device** like a steering wheel lock or a gear shift column lock.

**Use audible car alarms.** Even annoying car alarms can be effective deterrents.

### What Attracts a Car Thief?

- Leaving your car unlocked or the windows down
- Leaving your keys in the car or a spare key hidden in the car
- Leaving your car unattended
- Parking in poorly lit places
- Leaving valuables and packages in your car
- Cars not protected with an anti-theft device



### Mid-Year 2008 Crime Report

Overall crime in Fairfax County increased 12.1 percent during the first six months of 2008 compared to the first half of 2007. Violent crimes, including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, dropped 9.6 percent in the first half of 2008 compared to the first half of 2007. Property crimes, including burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft, increased 13.4 percent for the same period.

The crime statistics used for these comparisons are index crimes reported to federal authorities. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

Crime	Jan-June 2007	Jan-June 2008	% Difference
Murder	6	9	50.0%
Rape	55	51	-7.3%
Robbery	292	218	-25.3%
Aggravated Assault	147	174	18.4%
Burglary	623	692	11.1%
Larceny	6,442	7,451	15.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	714	682	-4.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,279</b>	<b>9,277</b>	<b>12.1%</b>

This table is a comparison of index crimes for the first half of 2007 and 2008.

Monthly reports of index crimes are valuable tools used by commanders throughout the Police Department to help determine where to target enforcement, information and education.

To request this information in an alternate format, call the Public Information Office at 703.246.2253. TTY 703-204-2264.

## Crime Prevention Program Recognized

Fairfax County has, one again, been named a Certified Crime Prevention Community by the Criminal Justice Services Board of Virginia. The Certified Crime Prevention Community program was created in 1998 by a directive from the governor’s Commission for Community Safety. Fairfax County and 14 other jurisdictions in Virginia were named for sending a strong message that crime



**Road DAWG (Don’t Associate With Gangs) Summer Camp** which helps young people enhance their decision-making skills enabling them to resist the draw of gangs and drugs.

**ChildSafeNet’s P’CASO ( Protecting Children Against Sex Offenders) Program** which included Fairfax County Police as the first law enforcement partner in their mission of protecting children from dangerous predators on the internet and in the community.

## Police Department Wins National Award

The Fairfax County Police Department is proud to be recognized by the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) Highway Safety Committee which announced the 2007-2008 National Law Enforcement Challenge Award winners at their mid-year meeting. The FCPD was awarded first place in the overall category, for municipal agencies of 1251 or more (sworn officers). The department was also awarded the Occupant Protection Award in the Special Category Awards. Occupant protection includes enforcement and education regarding the proper use of both seat belts and child safety seats.

Many multi-faceted efforts in enforcement and education were put into action. It begins with daily patrol activities as officers routinely enforce the law, but it is enhanced through specialized enforcement employed regularly to target specific issues and problem areas. Some of those programs include:

- Click it or Ticket (seat belt enforcement)
- Smooth Operator (targeting aggressive drivers)
- “Street Smart” (pedestrian safety)
- “Stop on Red Week” (red light enforcement)
- Safety by the Bus Load
- Operation Big Rig
- SOS - Start of School (School Zone speed enforcement)
- Saturation patrols focused in several parts of the county
- DWI Check Points
- Youth Alcohol Enforcement
- Business Compliance Checks / Shoulder Taps

We remain focused on our three main traffic safety goals:

- To reduce fatal, injury and property damage crashes,
- To change unsafe and illegal driver behavior, and,
- To change all drivers expectations concerning traffic enforcement in Fairfax County.

Overall crashes have gone down in a county encompassing nearly 400 square miles; a population of over one million; over 740,000 are licensed drivers with over 800,000 registered vehicles.

According to the IACP, “The Law Enforcement Challenge is a competition between similar sizes and types of law enforcement agencies. It recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in the United States. The areas

YEAR	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
PROPERTY DAMAGE	13,416	13,810	13,548	13,392	13,088	12,520
INJURY	5,430	5,198	5,111	4,913	4,906	4,598
FATAL	57	55	61	60	59	47

of concentration include efforts to enforce laws and educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding. Departments submit an application (usually in a three ring or presentation binder) which documents their agency's efforts and effectiveness in these areas. The winning safety programs are those that combine officer training, public information and enforcement to reduce crashes and injuries within its jurisdiction.”

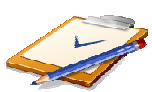
These awards are based on submissions made by the various police agencies. This year there were 560 total applications that were categorized and judged May 12-17, 2008 at IACP Headquarters in Alexandria by a panel of traffic safety professionals.

**Safe June Campaign....** The Fairfax County Police Department, in the interest of promoting safe and sober driving, launched "Operation Safe June". The purpose of the campaign, which ran from June 1 through July 7, is to continually educate the public about the dangers of irresponsible drinking and driving.

Operation Safe June consisted of officers from all eight district police stations. They formed a roving patrol with the primary purpose of identifying and arresting drunk drivers. These officers worked both weekdays and weekends throughout the evening hours. DWI checkpoints were also conducted as part of the strategic plan to combat impaired driving.

There were 17,875 reportable crashes in Fairfax County in 2007, 960 of those were alcohol-related. Fifteen of the 960 alcohol-related crashes were fatalities, resulting in 18 deaths.

The Fairfax County Police Department is serious about enforcing Virginia's DWI related laws and our officers know exactly what to look for. When we find you driving while impaired we will arrest you. No warnings, no second chance. Your life, your future, and the lives of others depend on your decision to not drive under the influence."



### Take This 60-Second Safety Check

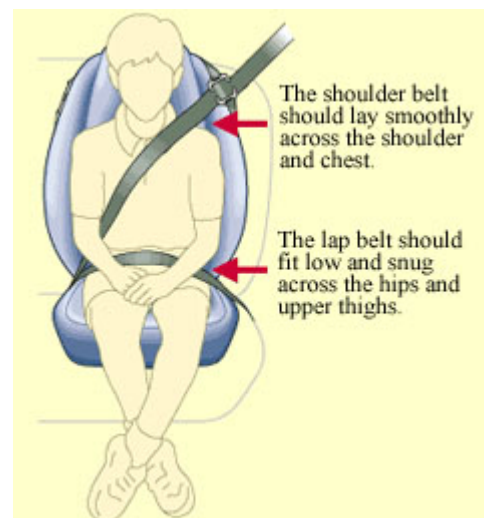
The National SAFE KIDS Campaign recommends that whenever possible, children ages 2 and under ride in the back seat of a vehicle. And the safest position for a safety seat, if it can be properly secured, is the center of the back seat.

A child should ride in a rear-facing seat until at least one year and 20 pounds, and a rear-facing safety seat should never be placed in a vehicle seat equipped with an air bag.

At one year and 20 pounds, a child can ride in a forward-facing seat equipped with internal harnesses.

When a child reaches the height and weight limit of his forward-facing seat (as prescribed by the manufacturer), he should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat, to be used in combination with an adult lap and shoulder belt.

A child is ready for an adult safety belt with no booster when: he can sit against the back of the seat and bend his knees over the edge, the lap belt makes good contact low over his hips, the shoulder belt makes good contact across his chest and collarbone.



## Police Educate Moped & Scooter Owners

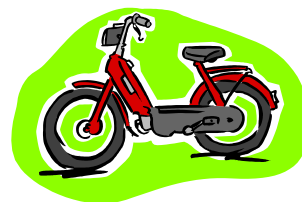
In the wake of soaring fuel prices and balmy weather, an increasing number of drivers are turning to mopeds and motorized scooters as alternatives to cars and trucks. The Fairfax County Police Department has released a new educational brochure and wants owners to know the rules of the road, as they pertain to these fuel-efficient vehicles.

According to Traffic Safety Specialist Master Police Officer Bob Barton, “We are seeing a surge in people, some more experienced than others, commuting by moped, scooters and motorcycles, which can create safety concerns when mixing with other vehicles.”

There is a new law, effective July 1, which those contemplating a new mode of commuting need to be aware of. If a moped is driven **over 35 mph**, it is now considered a motorcycle, which means that the operator needs to have additional driver’s certifications and a motorcycle license. Additionally, the moped needs license plates, proper registration and insurance. If a moped is driven **under 35 mph**, the driver does not need a license (but must carry identification) and the vehicle does not need license plates or insurance.

Additional safety tips for moped and scooter operators include:

- Drivers should wear bright or reflective clothing and a helmet.
- Drivers must be at least 16 years old to operate a moped.
- Mopeds and bicycles must stay to the right side of the roadway.
- Mopeds and motorized scooters may not be operated on sidewalks.



To learn more about moped and scooter safety, checkout:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/brochure/guide-scooter-moped-cycle-operation.pdf>

or call the Fairfax County Police Traffic Division at 703.280.0563.

## Major Incidents

**Man Charged for Sexually Assaulting Child....** Police arrested a 46-year-old man after he allegedly sexually assaulted a child in the Springfield area. Officers were called to a residence in the 7000 block of Skyles Way around 2:55 p.m. on Tuesday, July 1. An investigation determined the victim, an 11-year-old Springfield-area girl, was walking alone to her apartment when a maintenance employee from the complex approached her in the stairwell. The suspect kissed the victim and touched her inappropriately then walked away.

The victim immediately reported the incident and police were notified. Officers located the suspect, Gregorio Arias, nearby and took him into custody. Arias, of 5825 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW #201 in Washington, D.C. was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with aggravated sexual battery. The

### **Police Identify Emerging Gang: Six Arrested....**

Police have identified several Fairfax County young men as an emerging gang. Authorities have certified these individuals as gang participants. Police believe there may be 15 to 20 members of this predominately Asian group, based in the Fairfax, Centreville, Fair Oaks and Falls Church areas. Should these individuals be involved in further violations of law they may be subject to enhanced penalties if these acts are deemed to be gang related.

On Monday, February 18, a robbery and mob assault took place on a basketball court behind Fair Lakes Shopping Center. A verbal altercation became physical, resulting in several teenagers attacking a 15-year-old Fairfax boy. The boy was kicked and punched as he tried to get away from the group. Members of the group took the boy's backpack and belongings.

Following this incident, which was not reported to police, another incident involving some of the same individuals, took place on a basketball court in the Fair Oaks area. More than 30 people met at the court, where a violent fight took place between the two groups. Police are aware of at least one person that sought medical treatment at a local hospital's emergency room. Several weapons were recovered from the scene.

Police launched an investigation that involved coordination with school resource officers from Fairfax, Oakton and Centerville High Schools. Officers from the Fairfax City Police Department assisted Fairfax County patrol and bicycle officers from the Fair Oaks district and gang unit detectives with the investigation. Authorities were able to establish that there were two separate acts of violence that took place and charged the following individuals with robbery and mob assault: two 16-year-old males and one 17-year-old male, of Fairfax High School, on April 2, two Oakton High School students, aged 16 and 17, on May 7 and an adult, Daniel Y. Choi, 19 of 9600 Blake Lane, Fairfax on June 7.

**Robbery and Shooting in Springfield....** A husband and wife were robbed and the wife was shot once in the hand, shortly after 2 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, June 7. The victims arrived home in separate cars. The wife pulled into the garage on Dakine Circle while the husband pulled into the driveway and got out of his car. Three suspects, one armed with a handgun, knocked the husband to the ground and demanded money. The suspect with the gun went to the wife's car and knocked on the window. The victim refused to get out of the car and locked herself in. The suspect fired one round through the driver's window, striking the victim in the hand. The suspect reached into the car and grabbed the victim's purse. All three suspects fled toward Seatrend Way. The woman was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

The three suspects were described as men of unknown race, wearing dark clothing.

### **Home Invasion Robbery in Springfield....**

A 64-year-old Springfield woman and her 21-year-old live-in aid were the victims of a home invasion robbery. On Wednesday, June 4 shortly before 10 a.m. the woman was in the living room of her apartment in the 6700 block of Metropolitan Center Drive; her aid was in his bedroom. The female victim answered a knock at the door and was confronted by two men, one brandishing a handgun. Both suspects wore long-sleeved shirts with "Verizon Wireless" logos. Both victims' hands were bound. The suspects ransacked the apartment, taking an undisclosed amount of cash, jewelry and electronics. The victims were not injured and the suspects fled. The victims were discovered by a building maintenance man who then called police.

The suspects were both described as Hispanic men in their early 20s. One suspect was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall, with a medium build. He wore a white, button down shirt and blue jeans. He had dark hair and dark eyes. The second suspect was approximately 5 feet 7 inches tall, with a thin build. He wore a black, button-down shirt, dark pants, a skull cap and sunglasses.

**Anyone with information is asked to call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS[8477] or Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.**

## Major Incidents-continued

### Suspect Arrested in Rental Home Scam....

Detectives arrested Richard Hiner late Thursday evening during an investigation into a series of rental home scams. Between Sunday, July 13 and Friday, July 18, police were notified of four separate incidents where potential renters were defrauded of money after signing contracts on rental homes. In each case the victims found the rental homes advertised on Craigslist. After reportedly contacting Richard Hiner, the person in the ad, they toured the home, signed a rental contract and provided payment toward the rental. They later learned that Hiner was not affiliated with the properties and the homes were actually bank-owned and in foreclosure.

Detectives acted quickly, posing as potential renters and responding to an online ad for a rental home. Hiner was arrested when he arrived for the meeting after detectives determined he had no affiliation with that property. Richard K. Hiner, 31, of 1585 Kacy Court in Catlett, Virginia, was arrested and charged with four counts of grand larceny by false pretense and three counts of burglary. This investigation is ongoing and detectives would like to hear from anyone who may have additional information on these rental home scams.

Involved homes were located in the following areas:  
6200 block of Cool Valley Court (Franconia area)  
6400 block of Ronson Court (Rose Hill area)  
7900 block of Russell Road (Huntley Meadows area)

### Four Teens Arrested for Robbery Outside

**Springfield Mall ....** A 21-year-old man was beaten and robbed in the Springfield Mall parking lot on Friday, July 25 around 8:30 p.m. The Alexandria-area man was apparently followed to his car by a group of several young men. After a brief confrontation, the suspects punched the victim, produced a gun and demanded his money and belongings. The teenagers took the items and fled.

The victim quickly located a police officer who coordinated an immediate search for suspects. There was a saturation of police officers in the Springfield area that night, staffing a crime prevention and gang deterrent initiative targeting criminal activity. Officers quickly apprehended several suspects. After making positive identification, police arrested four Oxon Hill, Maryland teen-agers. The victim was transported to the Franconia District Police Station, where he was treated by medical personnel for non life-threatening injuries.

Police charged each of the four teens with robbery and use of a firearm in commission of a felony: Askia Cuff, 19, of 1412 Fenwood Avenue, Robert Ramsey, 19, and Roderick Ramsey, 18 of 1404 Fenwood Avenue and a 14-year-old, also of Oxon Hill, Maryland. The suspects were transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center. Detectives do not believe the robbery is gang related.

**Man Charged in Sexual Assault of Child....** Police have charged a 25-year-old Fairfax-area man for sexually assaulting a 1-year-old child. At 6:50 a.m. on Sunday, July 27, officers responded to Inova Fairfax Hospital for the assault. An investigation determined the assault occurred earlier in the morning at the banquet hall facility of the Annandale Boys and Girls Club, located at 6728 Industrial Road.

The victim's parents were cleaning up after a late-night party to celebrate the victim's Christening. They left their sleeping child in the care of several family members in the same party room. One of those family members found the victim crying in the hands of an unknown man and took the child from him. The victim's mother checked on her child and discovered her injuries. The parents immediately took her to the hospital for treatment.

Further investigation led to the arrest of Juan Miguel Sejas Castellon, of 3894 Bradwater Drive. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and charged with one count of animate object penetration and one count of abducting an infant child with the intent to defile.

**Groveton Man Dies in Lorton Crash....** A 53-year-old Groveton-area resident was killed by a suspected drunk driver in a two car crash on Sunday, August 3. The crash occurred around 11:30 p.m. in the northbound lanes of Route 1 at the intersection of the ramp to Interstate 95 in Lorton. Robert L. Thomas of 3424 Spring Drive was killed when his 1996 Saturn was struck by a 2006 Pontiac that had been driving in the southbound lanes. The driver of the Pontiac, a 31-year-old Woodbridge man had apparently lost control of his vehicle, veered across the concrete median and entered the northbound lanes striking the victim's car head-on. The victim died on scene and a front seat passenger was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital for non life-threatening injuries.

Police are investigating the crash. They believe speed and alcohol were contributing factors and charges against the Woodbridge man are pending. He is being treated for non life-threatening injuries at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Northbound lanes of Route 1 were closed for several hours.

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> traffic fatality in Fairfax County in 2008. At the same time last year, there were 33.

**.... Update** Police charged Alfredo Martinez Rivera, 31 of 13102 Kumar Road, Woodbridge with aggravated manslaughter and driving while intoxicated. Rivera was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.



## Major Incidents-continued

### **Attempted Abduction in the Hayfield Area....**

A 19-year-old Hayfield-area woman was grabbed by a man as she was jogging on Friday, May 30 around 11 p.m., near Welch Court and Buckhaven Court. The victim saw a man in a dark green pick-up truck drive past her several times and eventually park. The driver got out of the truck, ran toward her and grabbed her in a bear hug. The victim was able to fight off her attacker and run away unharmed. The suspect ran back to his truck and fled on Welch Court, toward Broadmoor Street.

The victim was not able to clearly identify the suspect's race. He was between 6 feet 3 inches and 6 feet 11 inches tall. He was wearing work boots and a hooded sweat shirt. The truck was possibly a Ford with a large cab, carrying a lawnmower in the back.

### **Police Interrupt Street Racing Preparation; 37 Charged....**

Police charged 34 adults and three juveniles early Saturday morning for trespassing on private property as they allegedly prepared to street race. Police were called to a church in the 15400 block of Lee Highway in the Bull Run area at 12:45 a.m. on June 14, for possible street racing. Officers located numerous vehicles and people in the parking lot of the church. An investigation determined the group was preparing to street race.

The Fairfax County Police Department is dedicated to keeping streets safe. Street racing in Fairfax County will not be tolerated. Anyone racing is subject to loss of vehicle, license suspension for up to two years, imprisonment for up to 12 months and a maximum fine of \$2,500.

**Convenience Store Robbery ....** Police are investigating a convenience store robbery that occurred Thursday evening. A 38-year-old Woodbridge man and a 41-year-old Lorton man were working in the Super High Mini-Mart, located at 7708 Gunston Plaza, at 10:32 p.m. on July 24, when a man entered the store with a handgun. The suspect pointed the weapon at one employee and demanded money. The victim complied and relinquished cash. The suspect then walked to the rear of the store. He found the second employee and forced him to unlock the rear door of the business. The victim complied and the suspect fled on foot.

The suspect was described as white, in his 20s. He was about 5 feet 7 inches tall and 165 pounds. He was wearing dark-colored jeans, a royal blue jacket and a black mask.

**Intruder Scared Away....** An 18-year-old Springfield woman awoke to find a man crawling through her bedroom window on Wednesday, July 23 shortly after 3 a.m. The victim had been sleeping in her ground floor apartment in the 7200 block of Commerce Street when she felt her blanket sliding off. When she opened her eyes, she saw a man, halfway through the window, pulling on her blanket. She screamed and was not injured; the suspect fled.

The suspect was described as a white or Hispanic male in his late 40s to 50 years old. He had short, brown hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a black T-shirt.

**Police Seek Witnesses in Abuse Case....** Police responded to a possible case of child abuse on Friday, June 27 around 7:30 p.m. A 34 year-old Springfield area woman was with her 4 year-old son in the 5900 block of Kingstowne Village Parkway. Citizens called police when the woman apparently began shouting at her son. Police responded and found the son with multiple bruises. Child Protective Services have since placed the child in a safe environment.

Police would like to speak to any potential witnesses that may have observed the woman and her son. The woman is described as white, about 5 feet 5 inches, heavy set with long brown hair and was known to frequent the Kingstowne Shopping Center area with her son.

**Home Invasion in Lorton Area....** Police are seeking a suspect in an apparent robbery attempt that took place Monday, July 14 in the 8000 block of Horseshoe Cottage Circle in the Lorton area. A 44-year-old woman was reportedly awoken by a man in her bedroom around 9:30 a.m.

The suspect bound the woman and led her through the home on an apparent search for money. He then locked her in a bathroom and continued his search. He fled a short time later. The victim was not seriously injured. The suspect was described as having a dark complexion. He wore a black mask, black T-shirt and blue jeans. He was approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighed approximately 180 pounds.

**Police Investigate Reported Child Abuse....** Detectives are seeking witnesses in a reported child abuse case that occurred on Friday, June 27 around 7:30 p.m. That evening police were called to the Noodles and Company restaurant, located at 5900 Kingstowne Village Parkway, for suspected child abuse. Officers were directed to a 34-year-old Springfield-area woman and her 4-year-old son who were inside the restaurant. An investigation determined that a patron alerted employees after the woman allegedly struck the child. Police were called when she began shouting at the boy. Officers released the child to another family member after discovering numerous bruises on his body. The investigation is ongoing.

Detectives would like to speak with anyone who may have been in the restaurant or observed the incident take place that evening. The woman is described as white, about 5 feet 5 inches tall and 350 pounds. She had long brown hair and was wearing a T-shirt and blue stretch pants.

## Major Incidents-continued

### Man Found Tied to Tree in Accotink Park....

Police found a 34-year-old Annandale man tied to a tree in Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield at about 3 a.m. Wednesday, July 30. Nearby residents heard the man yelling for help and contacted police.

The victim was allegedly beaten and robbed by two unknown men that he had eaten dinner with earlier that evening. After eating at a restaurant in Brookfield Plaza, the three walked toward the park. The suspects allegedly struck the victim, produced a gun and robbed him of his wallet and belongings. They bound the man to a tree where he remained for approximately four hours. The victim sustained non life-threatening injuries.

The two suspects were described as Hispanic, between 20 and 40-years-old. One suspect was approximately 6 feet 2 inches tall, thin, with a goatee and wore a black baseball cap, black shirt, black jeans and construction boots. The second suspect was between 5 feet 7 inches and 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighed between 170 and 190 pounds and wore a yellow T-shirt with black jeans.

### Cleaning Lady Arrested; Police Seek More Victims....

Fairfax County Police are trying to locate the owners of several pieces of jewelry recovered during a grand larceny investigation. The suspect was hired to clean houses. Mirian Martinez, 47, was arrested on Thursday, July 17 and charged with grand larceny and selling stolen property. Those charges stemmed from the theft of jewelry from a 51-year-old Alexandria-area woman in the 6100 block of Windham Hill Run. Officers located a pawn shop in Arlington where some of the stolen jewelry had been sold. Police are still looking for a diamond ring worth \$42,000.

As the investigation continued, two more clients, a 51-year-old Fairfax woman and a 38-year-old Fairfax Station woman, reported missing jewelry. The total amount of losses in the Fairfax County cases is over \$62,000. The property consists of jewelry and clothing. Martinez, of 2504 Byrd Lane in Alexandria, has been charged with an additional count of grand larceny and selling stolen property. More charges are pending.

In all the cases, Martinez has been employed by the victims for several years. She works under the company name Mirian Cleaning Services in Alexandria. Police are investigating the possibility there may be other victims.

### Motorist Robbed in Springfield....

A 35-year-old Springfield man was robbed at gunpoint on Monday, August 11 shortly after 4 p.m. The victim was in his car, yielding to traffic at the intersection of Amherst Avenue and Backlick Road. A man suddenly approached the victim's car and smashed out the passenger window. The suspect pointed a handgun at the victim and grabbed a bag containing an undisclosed amount of money from the passenger seat. The victim was not injured. The suspect fled on foot.

The suspect, of unknown race, was described as approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighing about 160 pounds. He was wearing dark clothing and had a mask covering his face. Plastic yellow hair extended outward from beneath the mask.

### DWI-Directed Patrol Results in Franconia Police District

Fairfax County Police officers from around the county conducted DWI directed patrols throughout the Franconia District, to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Friday, August 8 from 10 p.m. until 2 a.m. Saturday. Motorists stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated were checked to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs. Approximately 32 motorists were stopped. One arrest was made for DWI. Fourteen summonses were issued for miscellaneous traffic offenses.

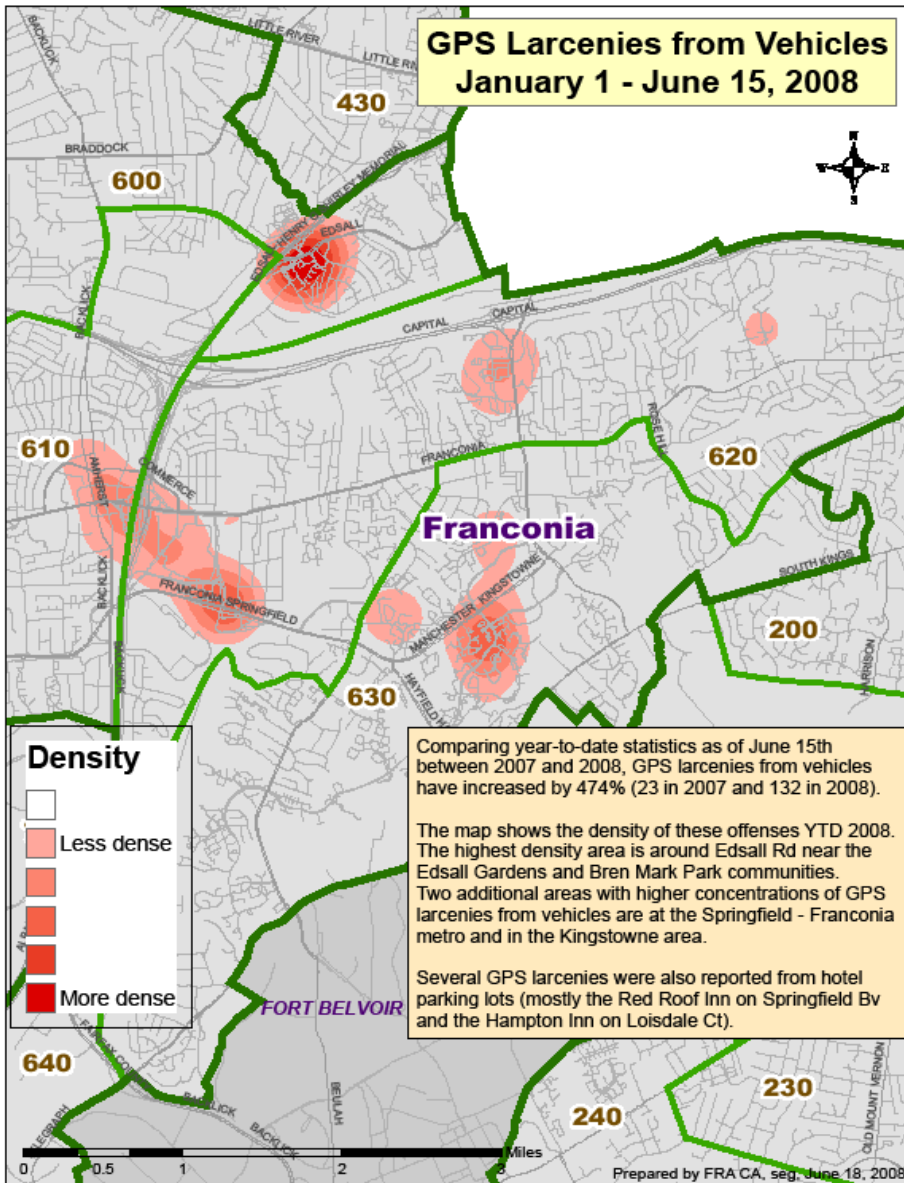
Eight officers and four auxiliary police officers participated in the operation.



**Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers:**

**Phone:** 1-866-411-TIPS[8477]  
**Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131**  
**Email:** [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org)  
**Text:** "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637





**Remember: Never leave valuable items in your vehicle.**

Thefts from motor vehicles tend to pick up during the summer months.

Leaving GPS devices, satellite radios, and MP3 players in your vehicle is like leaving \$400 cash on the dashboard. Stealing them is a crime of opportunity. Whoever is stealing them is going to where they can find vehicles... and that would be any parking lot.

It's very difficult to trace GPS devices, satellite radios, and MP3 players. They're designed to be portable. It's obviously one of the benefits and one of the pitfalls when they're stolen.

Even those who take their GPS gadgets off their dashboards return to find their windows smashed. Thieves gamble that an empty plastic cradle suction-cupped to the windshield means that a GPS unit has been hidden somewhere in the car.

It gets worse: Taking the plastic cradle off the windshield might not be enough if the suction cup leaves a ring of film on the glass. That alone can signal a thief. Police advise using moist towellets to remove the tell-tale rings.

**Goodbye**

**S**wimming & sunbathing  
**U**sing the grill  
**M**usic in the park  
**M**aking s'mores  
**E**ating ice cream cones  
**R**eading good books at the beach



**Hello**

**f**all foliage  
**a**corn gathering  
**l**eaf raking  
**o**abor Day





# FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## FRANCONIA DISTRICT STATION

### CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE



### VACANT HOMES AND BUILDINGS

Due to a rise in the number of reports of persons entering vacant homes and commercial buildings, individuals are urged to keep an eye on such homes in your neighborhood. Report any suspicious or unusual activity by calling the Police non-emergency telephone number: 703-691-2131. The information below is intended for children, teens and adults who may be considering “hanging out” in such homes and buildings.

**Q.: Is it ok to ‘hang out’ in a house or building that is vacant because no one lives there?**

**A.: NO. Even if no one is living in the house or building, someone still owns the house/building and you would be committing a crime.**

Depending on the circumstances of the event and the investigation you could be charged with the following crimes:

- **Burglary** – a felony crime punishable by a term of imprisonment of one to 20 years or, in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, be confined in jail for a period not exceeding 12 months or fined not more than \$2,500, either or both.
- **Trespassing or Unlawful Entry** – a misdemeanor crime which is punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.
- **Destruction of Personal Property** - If the value of property destroyed is less than \$1,000 it is a class 1 misdemeanor punishable by confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. If the value of property destroyed is greater than \$1,000 it is a class 6 felony which is punishable by a term of imprisonment of one to five years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.

**In addition to the above crimes you could face additional charges – based on the circumstances and your behavior/activities – such as curfew violations, alcohol or drug violations, etc.**

**Think twice before entering a vacant home or building!**

The Fairfax County Police Department is committed to the safety of your neighborhood. If you have any concerns, please call the Franconia District Station Crime Prevention Unit 703.922.8263 or email [Alice.Eggers@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Alice.Eggers@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## Foreclosed and Vacant Properties

Resources and contacts for homeowners, renters, and neighbors of foreclosed or vacant properties. Contact a department for help weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. unless other times noted.

TTY: 711 for all phone numbers		
Type of Issue	Department	Contact Info
<b>General Information</b>		703-324-7329 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Counseling for Homeowners</b>	<a href="#">Homeownership Resource Center</a>	703-246-5087 Weekdays, 1-4 p.m. <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Counseling for Renters</b>	<a href="#">Consumer Affairs</a>	703-222-8435 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Emergency Shelter and Food</b>	<a href="#">Shelters</a> - Department of Family Services <a href="#">Social Services Guide</a> - Department of Systems Management for Human Services	703-222-0880 Dial 211 (4:30 p.m. to midnight)
<b>Properties Unsafe and/or in Disrepair</b>	<a href="#">Department of Planning and Zoning</a>	<a href="#">Online Report Form</a> 703-324-1300
<b>Tall, Uncut Grass</b>	<a href="#">Public Works and Environmental Services</a>	<a href="#">Online Report Form</a> or call 703-324-1937
<b>Mosquitoes/Standing Water</b>	<a href="#">Health Department</a>	703-246-2300 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Rats</b>	<a href="#">Health Department</a>	703-246-2300 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Garbage and Trash</b>	<a href="#">Health Department</a>	703-246-2300 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Mortgage Scams or Fraud</b>	<a href="#">Consumer Affairs</a>	703-222-8435 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Discriminatory Loans</b>	<a href="#">Human Rights Commission</a>	703-324-2953 <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Abandoned Pets</b>	<a href="#">Animal Control</a>	703-691-2131 (24 hours) <a href="#">E-mail</a>
<b>Crime</b>	<a href="#">Police Department</a>	Non Emergencies: 703-691-2131 <b>Emergencies: 9-1-1</b>



## Know the Rules...For Going To and From School More Safely

Every day millions of children take to the streets and roadways to get to and from school. They walk, ride their bicycles, take buses, and arrive in vehicles with one purpose — getting to and from school safely. Every year approximately 440,000 public school buses travel more than 4 billion miles and daily transport 24 million children to and from school and school-related activities.<sup>1</sup> For many children this experience is a new one, and they may not understand the safety rules. Young children do not have the same frame of reference for safety as adults do. They may not “look before they leap,” which is why it is so important for families to supervise young children and practice safety skills with their older children. The tips noted below will help prepare your children for a safer journey.

1. Instruct your child to always **TAKE A FRIEND** when walking or riding his or her bike to and from school. It's safer and more fun to be with your friends. Walk and ride in well-lit areas, and never take shortcuts. When walking and biking stay aware of your surroundings and observe all traffic rules in place to more safely share the roads and sidewalks with others.
2. Even though there is safety in numbers, it is still not safe for young children to walk to and from school especially if they must take isolated routes before or during daylight. Always provide supervision for your young children to help ensure their safe arrival to and from school.
3. Your child should stay with a group while waiting at the bus stop. If anyone bothers your child while going to or from school, you should teach him or her to get away from that person, and **TELL** you or another trusted adult. If an adult approaches your child for help or directions, remember grownups needing help should not ask children for help; they should ask other adults.
4. You should visit the bus stop with your children and learn the bus number. This will avoid confusion for your children about knowing which bus to ride.
5. Instruct your children if anyone they don't know or a person who confuses, scares, or makes them feel uncomfortable offers a ride, say **NO**. Children should never hitchhike. Also children should never accept a ride from anyone unless you have told them it is OK to do so in each instance.
6. Tell your children that if anyone follows them on foot to get away from him or her as quickly as possible. If anyone follows them in a vehicle they should turn around, go in the other direction, and try to quickly get to a spot where a trusted adult may help them. Advise them to be sure to **TELL** you or another trusted adult what happened.
7. Teach your children if anyone tries to take them somewhere they should quickly get away and yell, “This person is trying to take me away” or “This person is not my father/mother/guardian.” If anyone tries to grab them, teach them to make a scene and every effort to get away by kicking, screaming, and resisting.
8. Children should be taught to never leave school with anyone they don't know. They should always **CHECK FIRST** with you or another trusted adult. If anyone tells them there is an emergency and they want your child to go with them, your children should always **CHECK FIRST** before doing anything. Make sure your children understand to **TELL** a trusted adult if they notice anyone they don't know hanging around the school.
9. Walk the route to and from school with your children pointing out landmarks and safe places to go if they're being followed or need help. Make a map with your children showing acceptable routes to school, using main roads, and avoiding shortcuts and isolated areas. The map will be a good guide if your children ever need help finding their way.
10. Remember to practice these safety rules with your children to make certain they really know and understand them. Make the walk to and from school a “teachable moment” and chance to put their skills to the test.

## Understanding Fairfax County's Noise Ordinance

Fairfax County residents and businesses are reminded that they must comply with the county's Noise Ordinance and are encouraged to report any violations that directly affect them. The ordinance promotes an environment for county citizens that is free from noise that jeopardizes their health or welfare or degrades the quality of life. Under the ordinance, the following acts are violations during the hours noted:



- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1) Operating loud speakers & amplifiers (exterior of buildings)                | 11 p.m.—7 a.m. |
| 2) Operating construction equipment (outdoors)                                 | 9 p.m.—7 a.m.  |
| 3) Operating construction equipment (outdoors) on Sundays and federal holidays | 9 p.m.—9 a.m.  |
| 4) Repairing vehicles or equipment (outdoors)                                  | 9 p.m.—7 a.m.  |
| 5) Operating powered model vehicles (outdoors)                                 | 9 p.m.—7 a.m.  |
| 6) Refuse collection in residential neighborhoods                              | 9 p.m.—6 a.m.  |
| 7) Truck loading or unloading (outdoors)                                       | 9 p.m.—6 a.m.  |

TV, radio, musical instruments, and animals that howl, bark, meow, or squawk frequently and habitually are declared a noise disturbance **any time** when plainly audible across property lines or through partitions. To register a complaint, contact the county's Zoning Enforcement Branch during normal business hours, weekdays from 8 am—4:30 pm, at 703.324.1300. During non-business hours, call the Public Safety non-emergency line at 703.691.2131.



## Not just the end of summer or a day off..... what it really is

### Labor Day: How it Came About; What it Means

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," said Samuel Gompers, founder and longtime president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man [or woman], living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

### Founder of Labor Day

More than 100 years after the first Labor Day observance, there is still some doubt as to who first proposed the holiday for workers. Some records show that Peter J. McGuire, general secretary of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners and a cofounder of the American Federation of Labor, was first in suggesting a day to honor those "who from rude nature have delved and carved all the grandeur we behold."

But Peter McGuire's place in Labor Day history has not gone unchallenged. Many believe that Matthew Maguire, a machinist, not Peter McGuire, founded the holiday. Recent research seems to support the contention that Matthew Maguire, later the secretary of Local 344 of the International Association of Machinists in Paterson, N.J., proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. What is clear is that the Central Labor Union adopted a Labor Day proposal and appointed a committee to plan a demonstration and picnic.

### The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883. In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

### Labor Day Legislation

Through the years the nation gave increasing emphasis to Labor Day. The first governmental recognition came through municipal ordinances passed during 1885 and 1886. From them developed the movement to secure state legislation. The first state bill was introduced into the New York legislature, but the first to become law was passed by Oregon on February 21, 1887. During the year four more states — Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York — created the Labor Day holiday by legislative enactment. By the end of the decade Connecticut, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania had followed suit. By 1894, 23 other states had adopted the holiday in honor of workers, and on June 28 of that year, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the territories.

### A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The character of the Labor Day celebration has undergone a change in recent years, especially in large industrial centers where mass displays and huge parades have proved a problem. This change, however, is more a shift in emphasis and medium of expression. Labor Day addresses by leading union officials, industrialists, educators, clerics and government officials are given wide coverage in newspapers, radio, and television.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — the American worker



September 1, 2008



# ~ FRANCONIA POLICE STATION SERVICES ~

For more information regarding the following services, please contact the crime prevention office at 703.922.8263 or e-mail Crime Prevention Officer MPO Alice Eggers [[Alice.Bennett@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Alice.Bennett@fairfaxcounty.gov)]

**Focus on Franconia Newsletter and Weekly Crime Report:** If you are interested in being on our e-mail/ mailing list for the monthly *Focus on Franconia* newsletter or on the e-mail list for the Weekly Crime Report, please contact us to sign up.

**VIN Etching:** The vehicle identification number is etched into the windows of your car to help reduce the risk of vehicle theft. Please contact us to schedule an appointment.

**Home/Business Security Assessments:** Are you concerned about the safety and security of your home or business? If so, call us to schedule a free security assessment. We will make recommendations and offer suggestions on how you can better safeguard your home or business.



### Citizen's Advisory Committee



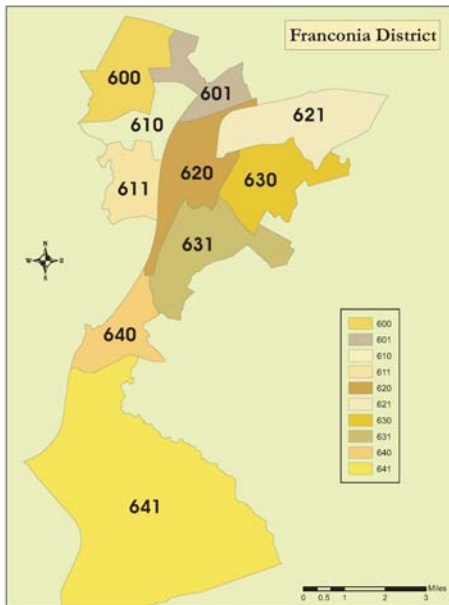
Franconia Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Franconia District Police Station. The next scheduled meetings are Wednesday, November 21 and January 16 at 7:30 pm; social time starts at 7:00 pm. The CAC works; these meetings are very informative and help keep residents of the Franconia area aware of police activity in their community. Everyone is welcome, so please join us.

**MODIP:** The Mature Operators Driver Improvement Program is offered to residents 55 years of age and older. Sanctioned by the American Automobile Association, this 8-hour course may result in insurance premium reductions as mandated by Virginia. Classes are normally held the second Saturday at the station from 8 am to 4 pm. Fee is \$10 per person for books and materials. MODIP reservation line is 703.924.6588.



**Neighborhood Watch Training:** If your community is interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch training, please call us and we will schedule a time to come to your community to give the training.

### Station 6 Police Service Areas



# ~ FCPD SERVICES ~

### SEXUAL ASSAULT FREE AND EMPOWERED (SAFE)

In the United States a woman is assaulted every six minutes. SAFE is a woman's self-defense program that teaches realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. To learn more about SAFE or to register for the course, please call 703.246.7806.

**Child safety seat checks by appointment at any police district station.**

*Victim Services Section: Helping victims rebuild their lives*

Serving the citizens of Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and the Towns of Herndon and Vienna.

### STOP! Aggressive Driving

To find out more contact us at [trasaf@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:trasaf@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Franconia District Police Station  
6121 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, Virginia 22310  
Main Phone: 703.922.0889  
Fax : 703.719.6436

**Captain Erin Schaible**  
Station Commander  
Email: fracapt@fairfaxcounty.gov

**Lieutenant Daniel Janickey**  
Assistant Commander

**IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**  
*Fairfax County Crime Solvers*  
703.691.8888 or 1.866.411.TIPS/8477



*Citizen Reporting Unit*  
703.922.2230 [For reports not requiring an officer  
allow a 24-72 hour call back time]  
or  
On-line Reporting at  
www.fairfaxcounty.gov, public safety-police

*Child Safety Seat Inspection Hotline ~*  
703.280.0559  
Contact the Crime Prevention Officer at  
francpo@fairfaxcounty.gov

**Fairfax County Police Department**

**Emergency: 911**

Non-Emergency: 703. 691.2131



**Franconia Citizens' Advisory Committee**

Chair ~ William "Woody" Betts                      Treasurer ~ Les Grizzard  
First Vice Chairman ~ Bill Harris                      Secretary ~ Johna Gagnon  
Second Vice Chairman ~ Donna Hottle

**Citizens' [Chief's] Advisory Council**

Franconia District Representatives ~ Woody Betts & Sue Hotto

**The Franconia Citizens' Advisory Committee meets at  
7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month at the  
Franconia District Station at 6121 Franconia Road.....**

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 17, 2008

This meeting will be the annual picnic. Stay tuned! and  
check your email!!!!