



Mason in Motion



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REMAIN
ANONYMOUS**
TOLL FREE
1-866-411-TIPS

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Citizens Advisory Council Officer of the Year

On January 6, 2009 the Citizens Advisory Council presented the Ed Smith Officer of the Year award for 2008 to PFC Bryan Byerson. He has been with the police department for four years and in those years he has made a name for himself as a deter-

mined and motivated police officer. He was nominated by Detective Nicholas, as well as his supervisors, Lt. Blechl and Lt. Machosky.

Detective Nicholas detailed several incidents where PFC Byerson demonstrated level-headed thinking and dogged determination. One of those situations was during an apartment building fire on January 12th, 2008. PFC Byerson, along with members of his squad, were dispatched to a call involving a suicidal person. An investigation determined that a resident had intentionally exposed an interior gas line in his apartment that caused an explosion. As officers made their way to the apartment, they encountered a ferocious fire with smoke and debris showering down around them. The force of the explosion catapulted the kitchen stove through a brick wall. Believing there were survivors in the apartment, PFC Byerson and other officers went inside armed with fire extinguishers and saved the suicidal resident. The entire apartment complex, consisting of 400 residents, had to be evacuated. No one was injured but PFC Byerson was treated for smoke inhalation.

PFC Byerson also received a Meritorious Action Commendation for his actions during an investigation that led to the arrest of a murder suspect. On April 6th, 2008, PFC Byerson and members of his squad responded to a stabbing in the Alexandria area of the Mason Police District. A man was reportedly inside the house and believed to be dead. PFC Byerson quickly searched the residence and locate one victim who was in fact dead. After interviewing other residents and looking at the evidence Byerson quickly developed a suspect, they located him nearby and apprehend him with the assistance of Alexandria City Police. Without his quick thinking and outstanding police work, the suspect could have fled the area. These are just a few examples of the impressive work that PFC Byerson did over the year.

In addition to his service with the Fairfax County Police Department, PFC Byerson served in the United States Marine Corps before joining the police department. He embodies what an officer should display outside of work as well. He is the father of a five-year-old son and currently plays the role of a single parent while his wife serves overseas as a member of the United States military.

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AREA 420

Lt. Holmes

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AREA 440

Lt. Volles

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Sgt. Quinn

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Sgt. Billeb

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Sgt. Williams

Albert.Williams@Fairfaxcounty.gov

AREA 410

Lt. Reed

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AREA 430

Lt. Ipina

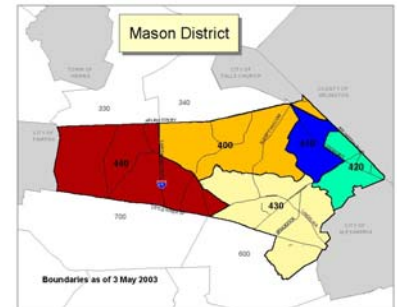
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Sgt. Krause

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False Alarms

**QUESTION:** Should wind cause your alarm system to activate?**ANSWER:** Wind should NOT cause properly installed and maintained alarm systems to activate.

- When winds exceed 30 - 40 mph, Fairfax County experiences an increase in false alarm activations.
- False alarms caused by wind are preventable.
- To prevent wind-related false alarms, eliminate movement within door and window frames which allows separation of contacts and creates a false alarm.
- Ensure doors and windows fit snugly in their frames and that contacts are firmly in place.
Consider replacing loose alarm contacts with "wide" door or window contacts to fill voids that allows excessive movement of your doors and windows.

QUESTION: Should a power outage or power surge cause your system to activate?**ANSWER:** Power outages and/or surges should NOT cause properly installed and maintained alarm systems to activate.

To prevent power surges or power outages from causing false alarms, contact your alarm company to verify that your alarm system has been properly installed in compliance with the County Code of Fairfax, Security Alarm Systems. This includes properly installed surge suppressors and adequate backup battery:

- Ensure surge suppressors are installed on both the alarm system and on the phone line sending the alarm signal to your central monitoring station.
- Ensure your alarm system batteries are holding a minimum charge of 4 hours—if not, replace them, (County Code of Fairfax 8.1 Section 8.1.-3-5).
- Properly maintained batteries and surge suppressors help reduce false alarms.

Remember, wind-related alarm activations are false alarms.



Citizens Police Academy Accepting Applications

The police department is accepting applications for its upcoming Citizens Police Academy, held Thursday evenings March 12 through May 16. The academy offers a unique "glimpse behind the badge." Classes are a combination of lecture and hands-on activities. Topics include: SWAT and special operations, gangs, 9-1-1 communications, patrol, crime prevention, crime scene, identity theft and a tour of the Adult Detention Center. The program is free; for more information and an application form, e-mail CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-280-0713 (also for reasonable ADA accommodations).



Tips for Driving at Night

At this time of year we are driving in the dark a lot more often than in the summer time. Driving at night poses many driving hazards because the decrease in daylight diminishes our visibility. There are several tips to make driving at night safer for you and other drivers on the road.

Before you drive:

- Prepare your vehicle for night driving. Keep headlights, tail lights, signal lights and windows (inside and out) clean.
- Pay attention to your lights. If a bulb burns out, change it.
- Have your headlights properly aimed. Misaimed headlights blind other drivers and reduce your ability to see the road.

While Driving:

- Use your headlights at dawn and early twilight so other drivers can spot you sooner.
- If there is any doubt, turn your headlights on. Lights will not help you in early twilight, but they will make it easier for others to see you.
- Switch to low beams when you are following or being approached by another vehicle so you don't blind the other driver with high beams.
- Don't stare into high-beams. Avoid glare by watching the right edge of the road, using it as a steering guide.
- Slow down. The speed and distance of other vehicles are harder to judge at night. As it grows darker, your speed should decrease, while your following distance should increase.
- Don't overdrive your headlights. You should be able to stop inside the illuminated area. If you're not, you are creating a blind crash area in front of your vehicle.
- Don't Drink and Drive! Not only does alcohol severely impair your driving ability, it also acts as a depressant. Just one drink can induce fatigue.

Crashes and Vehicle Trouble:

- If you have car trouble, or are involved in a crash, pull off the road as far as possible. Warn approaching traffic by setting up reflecting triangles near your vehicle and a reasonable distance behind it.
- Turn on your emergency flashers.
- Keep yourself and passengers off the roadway.
- If you are unable to move your vehicle, call the police department for assistance and reporting purposes. Do not walk on the street. Either walk to the edge of the road or stay in your vehicle. By walking around, you are causing a hazard to other drivers, who may not be able to see you.



Notable arrests:

Suspect Wanted for Shooting in Falls Church

Three men were shot while standing outside the El Catrin restaurant at 2930 Patrick Henry Drive, shortly before midnight Saturday, July 12, 2008. A man armed with two handguns approached the front door of the restaurant and fired several rounds, striking each of the three victims.

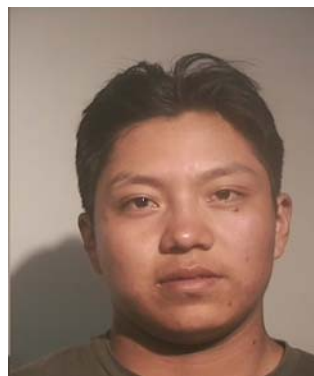
Preliminary investigation has determined that the suspect got into an argument with another man inside the restaurant and was escorted out by security. Within approximately 30 minutes, the suspect returned to the parking lot and allegedly shot the victims. The suspect then turned and fled in an unknown vehicle toward Arlington Boulevard. All three victims were transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital; one, a 52-year-old Arlington-man, sustained life-threatening injuries. A second victim is a 23-year-old, from the Falls Church-area. The third victim is a 25-year-old, whose address is unknown at this time.

The suspect in this case has been identified as Vitalino Gomez-Carreto, 23, of no fixed address. He is Hispanic, approximately 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighs about 150 pounds. He has black hair and brown eyes. An arrest warrant has been obtained, charging Gomez-Carreto with malicious wounding.

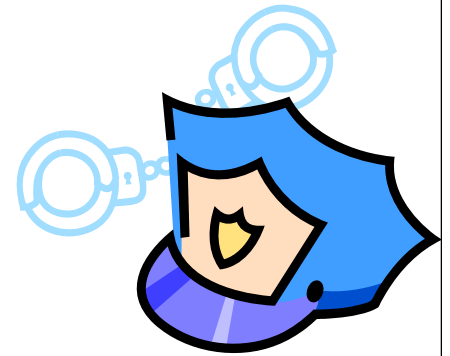
Update

The suspect in this case, Vitalino Gomez-Carreto, was indicted on December 15, 2008 on one count of homicide, two counts of malicious wounding and three counts of the use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. These charges stem from the death of one of the shooting victims; Carlos A. Grajales-Morales, 53, of 6407 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington. He died August 30, 2008 and his death has now been ruled a homicide. Gomez-Carreto's whereabouts are still unknown and Fairfax County Police Homicide detectives are asking for the public's assistance in locating him. Anyone with information is asked to contact the police department or Fairfax County Crime Solvers by either going to www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

This was the 21st homicide in Fairfax County in 2008.



Vitalino Gomez-Carreto





Tips for Keeping your Kids Safe

- **Be careful of who cares for your child.** Choose experienced caregivers who like children. Discuss your child's needs, habits and schedule. Communicate your rules and expectations. Make sure the caretaker knows what to do in an emergency. For more information, contact the Department of Family Services at 703-449-8484 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ofc/>.
- **Don't leave children home alone until they can be responsible.** Infants and young children need full-time care and supervision. No child or young teen should be left alone overnight. Leaving youngsters alone for short periods is a matter of maturity. Can your child follow rules (stay inside, don't open the door to strangers)? Have you role-played what to do in case of fire, injury or other emergency? Is there a safe place to go if necessary? Does your child know how to contact you? A rebellious teen may need more supervision than a responsible 11-year-old. Check out Fairfax County's Child Supervision Guidelines.
- **Never leave children alone in a car.** In summer, a closed car can quickly heat up to dangerous levels. In winter, a closed car left running can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- **Know how to spot a depressed child.** In the U.S., nearly 2,000 youngsters, ages 10 - 19, committed suicide in 2000, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Depression is often a factor. Watch for: persistent sadness and/or irritability; low self-esteem or feelings of worthlessness; increase or decrease in activity, eating or sleeping; loss of interest in favorite activities; difficulty concentrating; anger and rage; headaches, stomach aches or other physical pains that seem to have no cause; preoccupation with death or suicide. If your child has any of these symptoms, call Public Mental Health Treatment Information and Referral at 703-481- 4230; Spanish 703-799-2838.
- **Learn about child development.** Learning what you can expect from children at each growth stage makes parenting easier. A handy guide, "Understanding and Guiding Children as They Grow and Develop," is available on our web site. Helpful information is available at your local library or the Internet at National Association for the Education of Young Children (www.naeyc.org) or call 1-800-CHILDREN (245-3736).
- **Help for parents and teens during the adolescent years.** Here are some 24 hour, 7 days a week resources that may be helpful in dealing with challenging adolescents: Alternative House counseling hotline, 1-800-SAY-TEEN (729-8336); Crisis Link/Teen Hotline, 703-527-4077.

Fairfax County Community Crime Statistics Information Line

703 – 246 – 7932

This phone number can be used to request crime statistics for any neighborhood within Fairfax County. Callers will be asked to leave full contact information, requests will be filled within 5-7 business days and limited to two (2) requests per week.



**FAIRFAX COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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**Crime Prevention Unit
703-354-5889**

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WWW.FAIRFAXCOUNTY.GOV



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Fairfax, Virginia 22030

**Mason Station
Events**

CAC

Next meeting

March 3, 2009

&

April 7, 2009

Neighborhood Watch

Coordinators

Neighborhood Watch

Training

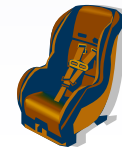
April 7, 2009

Child Safety Seat Installations

**Various dates throughout the
county.**

Please call the hotline for more
details.

703-280-0559



*Join us every first
Tuesday of the month for
the CAC Meeting held in
the **Large Conference
Room** at the Mason
District Station.*

The Cast of the Mason District Station

Station Commander

Captain Michael Dittmer

Assistant Commander

Lieutenant Rich Perez

Crime Prevention Unit

MPO Chip Conner

PFC Courtney Thibault

APO Mary Nugent

Community Policing Support

CA Jessica Beaty, Crime Analyst II