

April 2007



THE SIREN NEWSLETTER



Fairfax County Police Department, McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia 22101
703-556-7750 main 703-356-7208 fax
Commander Graham McGowan
Assistant Commander Sue Lamar

Community and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Meeting Schedule McLean District Station (Community Room)

1437 Balls Hill Road
April 17, 2007, at 7 p.m.
July 17, 2007, at 7 p.m.
October 16, 2007, at 7 p.m.

James Lee Community Center (See signage for room)

2855-A Annandale Road
April 25, 2007, at 7 p.m.
July 25, 2007, at 7 p.m.
October 24, 2007, at 7 p.m.

Citizen Advisory Council (CAC)

CAC meets the third Thursday every month at 7 p.m. Meeting locations change and are announced at each meeting. For the next meeting location, please contact the station at 703-556-7750.

Child Safety Seat Inspections

The McLean Station does child seat inspections by appointment only, please call 703-556-7750 ext. 5417 for your appointment. You may also call the Fairfax County Police Child Seat Hotline at 703-280-0559 to find out locations of public child seat inspection events.

The McLean District Station Commander Graham McGowan Assistant Commander Sue Lamar



I would like to start this article by thanking Lieutenant Ronald P. Novak for his two plus years of dedicated service to the citizens in the McLean District. Lieutenant Novak received a new assignment within the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. Lieutenant Sue Lamar is the new Assistant Station Commander and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome her to your district.



Traffic enforcement: Did you know in 2006 approximately 16,787 traffic violations were cited in the McLean District Station? Some of the top ranked offenses were fail to obey a highway sign (1,907), driving on revoked/suspended license (927) and fail to obey a traffic signal (821). Though "speeding" is the top category with 2,629 violations, this category covers a variety of speed limit zones and speed ranges. There were 438 summonses issued for speeding 40-44 mph in a 25 mph zone. Speeding 50-54 mph in a 35 mph accounted for 429 summonses. Traffic enforcement is just one component of the services provided by the men and women of the McLean District Station. Enforcement educates and reminds drivers to be aware of how they are operating their vehicle on the roadways. We take safety on our roadways seriously. Every driver should be mindful of their speed, obey traffic signs and signals.

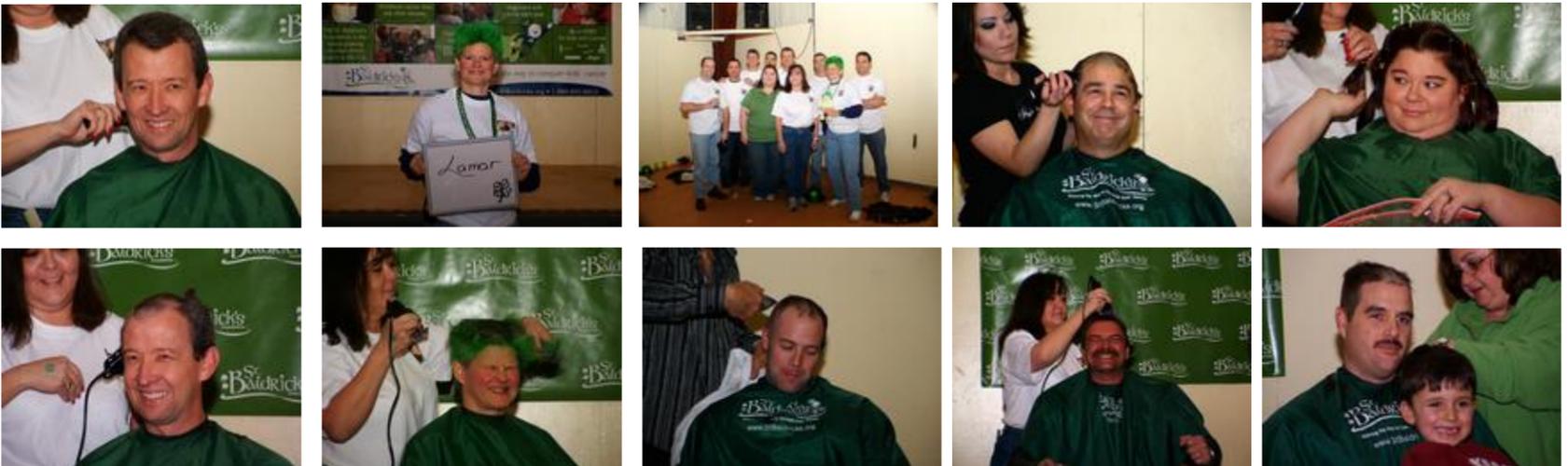
Vehicle Crashes: Unfortunately vehicle crashes are not an uncommon occurrence in the McLean District. In 2006 there were approximately 2,294 reportable vehicle crashes and 2,504 non-reportable crashes. A non-reportable crash does not involve personal injury, combined damage is under \$1000.00 or occurred on private property. The vast majority of our crashes only involve property damage. Actual charges placed in these crashes is unknown, enforcement numbers for offenses normally associated with crashes suggest that driver inattention ranks high amongst causative factors. Here is a break down of some common offenses charged; fail to keep proper control of vehicle (402), fail to pay time & attention (569), fail to yield right of way (314) and following to close (131). By paying attention, yield the right of way and awareness of our distance between vehicles, many of these accidents can be reduced or avoided. With new construction, a strong economy and a sought after place to live and work, traffic congestion and traffic related issues continue to be part of our daily lives. With your support we look forward to a reduction in vehicle crashes and greater compliance with the rules of the road in 2007.

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Fairfax County Police Officers Support Children With Cancer at St. Baldricks Event

Three weeks prior to St. Patrick's Day, Master Police Officer Beth Benham decided to challenge the police officers. She asked for people to shave their hair to raise money for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a non-profit group that supports cancer research for ill children. By the 16th of March, 92 officers and members of their families arrived at the Police Association Hall and had their heads shaved clean.

The event raised over \$49,990 dollars in online donations and another \$10,450 was raised in cash and check donations, all in **three short weeks!** Prizes were awarded for the top 3 individual fundraisers and the top three teams. The first place team was the "McLean Mug-Shots" from the McLean District who raised over \$13,000. Participating in the event from the McLean District were a number of officers plus both the commanders of the station. Yes our new assistant commander Lt. Sue Lamar got her head shaved. We also had a number of civilian Police employees involved in the event. To say the least it was a great event for a good cause.



More information on the foundation can be found at www.stbaldricks.org and feel free to visit the site for the Fairfax County Police Association, our fundraising efforts and photos of the event. See you there next year!

Internet Safety Tips for Kids

Guidelines for Parents & Educators

- ★ Don't give out any personal identification information such as your name, home address, school name, or telephone number in a public message such as a chat room or newsgroup.
- ★ If you become aware of the presence of child pornography online in any form, immediately report this to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678, or the CyberTipLine Website at www.cybertipline.com.
- ★ Never respond to messages that are suggestive, obscene, belligerent, threatening, or in any way make you feel uncertain or uncomfortable. If you receive such a message forward that information to your Internet Service Provider and ask for their assistance.
- ★ Remember that people online may not be who they seem. For instance, someone who says that "she" is a "12-year old girl" or a "14-year-old "boy" could in reality be a 45-year old man.
- ★ Remember that not everything you read online is necessarily true. Anything that seems "too good to be true" probably *is* too good to be true. Be very careful about any suggestions that involve you going someplace to meet someone you encounter online, having someone visit your house, or sending money or credit-card information.
- ★ Do not click on any links that are contained in E-mail from persons you don't know.
- ★ Be sure you personally know who you are "IM'ing" with. Be aware that anything you type could be forwarded to other people. There is no way to "take back" something once you enter it online.

"Adapted from Teen Safety on the Information Highway and Child Safety on the Information Highway by Lawrence J. Magid. Alexandria, Virginia: National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, 2003."

- ✔ Consider using filtering or monitoring software for your computer. Visit the "[NetSmartz Resources](#)" section to get information on filtering or blocking software.
- ✔ Look into safeguarding programs or options your online service provider might offer. These may include monitoring or filtering capabilities.
- ✔ Always read a web site's privacy policy before giving any personal information. Also make sure that a web site offers a secure connection before giving credit-card information.
- ✔ Websites for children are not permitted to request personal information without a parent's permission*. Talk to your children about what personal information is and why you should never give it to people online.
- ✔ If your child uses chat or E-mail, talk to him or her about never meeting an online "friend" face-to-face.
- ✔ Talk to your child about not responding to offensive or dangerous E-mail, chat, or other communications. Report any such communication to local law enforcement. Do not delete the offensive or dangerous E-mail, instead turn off the monitor, and contact local law enforcement.
- ✔ Keep the computer in the family room or another open area of your home.
- ✔ Get informed about computers and the Internet. Visit the Websites in the links section above to find additional information on Internet safety.
- ✔ Let your children show you what they can do online, and visit their favorite sites or chat rooms.
- ✔ Have your children use child-friendly search engines when completing homework.
- ✔ If you suspect online "stalking" or sexual exploitation of a child report it to your local law-enforcement agency. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has a system for identifying online predators and child pornographers and contributing to law-enforcement investigations. It's called the [CyberTipline](#). Leads forwarded to the site are acknowledged and shared with the appropriate law-enforcement agency for investigation. You may also call NCMEC at 1-800-843-5678 to report such incidents.
- ✔ Know who your children are exchanging E-mail with, and only let them use chat areas that you have visited. [NetSmartz](#) recommends limiting chat room access to child-friendly chat sites, for children in this age group.
- ✔ Be aware of any other computers your child may be using (a friend's house, school, library, etc.).
- ✔ Internet accounts should be in the parent's name with parents having the primary screen name, controlling passwords, and using blocking and/or filtering devices.
- ✔ Children should not complete a profile for a service provider and children's screen names should be nondescript so as not to identify that the user is a child.

*[The Commission on Online Child Protection passed the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), effective April 21, 2000. The privacy measures prevent websites from collecting information about children 13 and younger without a parent's verifiable permission. The law also requires website operators to block access by anyone 17 or younger to materials deemed "harmful to minors" by requesting all users to provide a credit card number or personal ID number.] For more information about the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, go to <http://www.coppa.org>

Adapted from *Child Safety on the Information Highway* by Lawrence J. Magid. Copyright © 1994 National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). All rights reserved.

**Fairfax County
Police Department
Observe
and
Report
Programs**

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
BY
neighbors who care
SPONSORED
BY
FAIRFAX COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Fairfax County
**Business
Watch**
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BY
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT

FAIRFAX COUNTY
Park & Trail Watch



PARK WATCH
HOTLINE
703-PK-WATCH



The Fairfax County Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency. Messages will be delivered to any e-mail accounts, cell phones, text pagers, satellite phones or wireless PDAs that you register.

When an incident or emergency occurs, the CEAN will be your connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, protective actions that need to be taken and other important information.

Sign up today at:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean

Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management
Tel: 703-324-2362 • TTY 711
www.fairfaxcounty.gov
February 2005

The Fairfax County CEAN will be used in conjunction with other public notification methods, such as cable Channel 16, the Fairfax County Government Web site (www.fairfaxcounty.gov), the Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line (703-817-7771, TTY 711) and area media, both radio and television.

Laws of the Month - Speeding...DWI...Reckless Driving

MOUNT VERNON POLICE LEDGER

§ 46.2-852. Reckless driving; general rule.

Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person shall be guilty of reckless driving.

§ 46.2-862. Exceeding speed limit.

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who drives a motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth (i) at a speed of twenty miles per hour or more in excess of the applicable maximum speed limit or (ii) in excess of eighty miles per hour regardless of the applicable maximum speed limit.

§ 46.2-864. Reckless driving on parking lots, etc.

A person shall be guilty of reckless driving who operates any motor vehicle at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person:

1. On any driveway or premises of a church, school, recreational facility, or business property open to the public; or
2. On the premises of any industrial establishment providing parking space for customers, patrons, or employees; or
3. On any highway under construction or not yet open to the public.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call, Fairfax County Police, Commander of Personnel Division 703-246-7562, TTY 703-204-2264 or the Virginia Relay Center TTY 1-800-828-1120.

Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements.