

July 2006

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 Ronald Novak

Community and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Meeting Schedule

McLean District Station (Community Room)

1437 Balls Hill Road

July 27, 2006, at 7 p.m.
October 16, 2006, at 7 p.m.

Devonshire Center (Cafeteria)

Lee Highway and Graham Road

July 26, 2006, at 7 p.m.
October 25, 2006, at 7 p.m.

Citizen Advisory Council Meetings (CAC)

The 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.

National Night Out

August 1, 2006 evening

Three Day Public Safety Awareness Event

Tysons Corner Center
September 22-24, 2006

History of NATW and National Night Out

The National Association of Town Watch (NATW) is a non-profit, crime prevention organization which works in cooperation with thousands of crime watch groups and law enforcement agencies throughout the country. Since 1981, NATW has been dedicated to the development, growth and maintenance of organized crime and drug prevention programs nationwide. NATW's network has grown to include over 6,000 crime, drug and violence prevention organizations.

National Night Out, 'America's Night Out Against Crime,' was introduced by the Association in 1984. The program was the brainchild of NATW Executive Director Matt A. Peskin.

In an effort to heighten awareness and strengthen participation in local anticrime efforts, Peskin felt that a high-profile, high-impact type of crime prevention event was needed nationally. At that time, he noted that in a typical 'crime watch community', only 5 to 7 percent of the residents were participating actively. Due to the growth and success of these programs, he felt this percentage was too low. Subsequently, he proposed a na-

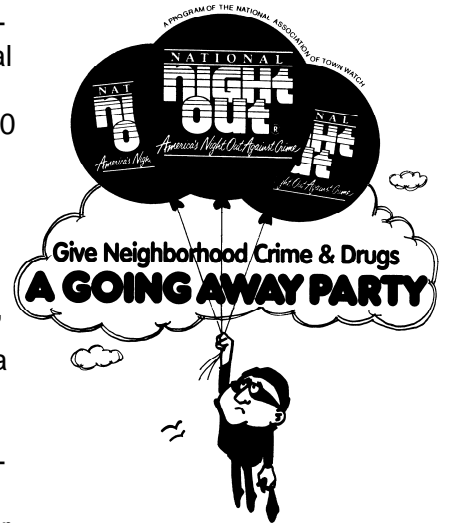
tional program which would be coordinated by local crime prevention agencies and organizations - but that would involve entire communities at one time. The first National Night Out was introduced early in 1984 - with the event culminating on the first Tuesday in August.

That first year, 400 communities in 23 states participated in National Night Out. Nationwide, 2.5 million Americans took part in 1984. The seed had been planted. In subsequent years, participation has grown steadily. The 21st Annual National Night Out last August involved 34.2 million people in 10,325 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. National Night Out 2006 will culminate on August 1st. Close to 10,500 communities are expected to take part. (For more information, visit www.nationalnightout.org)

While the traditional 'lights on' and front porch vigils remain a part of NNO, activities have expanded considerably over the years to include block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from police, festivals, neighborhood walks, safety fairs, con-

tests, rallies and meetings.

Peskin said, "It's a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. While the one night is certainly not an answer to crime, drugs and violence, National Night Out does represent the kind of spirit, energy and determination that is helping to make many neighborhoods safer places throughout the year. It [NNO] is a night to celebrate safety and crime prevention successes - and to expand and strengthen programs for the next 364 days."



A Summation of a Few of the New Laws Approved by the Virginia General Assembly Effective July 1

§ 3.1-796.93:1 amended; § 3.1-796.93:3 added; § 3.1-796.117 repealed.

Control of dangerous and vicious dogs; registry; penalty. Requires the control of dangerous dogs within a statewide mandated framework. The bill imposes criminal penalties ranging from a Class 2 misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony for violations that result in injury to a person or death to a cat or dog. The bill expands the authority to petition a court to find a dog dangerous to any law-enforcement officer and makes that petition mandatory. A Virginia Dangerous Dog Registry is created to be maintained by the State Veterinarian; any change in the status of a dangerous dog is to be promptly submitted in writing. Surrender of a dog that is subject of a pending action to animal control shall not be in lieu of prosecution. The bill also (i) narrows the definition of "dangerous dogs" to include dogs that inflict injury to another cat or dog requiring the animal to be euthanized while also broadening safe harbor provisions; (ii) requires that a dog that has been found to be dangerous or vicious shall be spayed or neutered; and (iii) requires liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000 to be purchased by the owner of a dangerous dog, or in lieu of the insurance policy, the owner may obtain a surety bond [HB 340](#); CH. 837 / [HB 1039](#); CH. 864 / [SB 200](#); CH. 898

§ 3.1-796.70 amended.

Gifting of unweaned or certain immature animals. Prohibits the giving away as pets or novelties any living chicks, ducklings, or other fowl under two months old in quantities of less than six or any unweaned mammalian companion animal or any dog under the age of seven weeks without its dam, or any cat under the age of seven weeks without its queen. Current law prohibits the sale or use as inducement or prize but does not address gifts. [SB 574](#); CH. 503

§§ 3.1-796.86 through 3.1-796.90, 3.1-796.97 amended; § 3.1-796.87:1 added.

Licensing of dogs and cats. Requires licensed veterinarians to forward to the local treasurer vaccination information for dogs. The local treasurer shall, upon receipt of the vaccination information, bill the owners of unlicensed dogs for a pet license. The duration of a dog or cat license may be equal to and run concurrent with the effective period of the rabies vaccination. [HB 339](#); CH. 836

§ 4.1-200 amended.

Alcohol beverage control; home exemption. Requires a guest to be 21 years of age or older or to be accompanied by his parent, guardian, or spouse in order to be served alcohol in the home of another. [HB 1208](#); CH. 274 / [SB 396](#); CH. 740

§ 4.1-305 amended.

Alcohol beverage control; underage purchase or possession. Makes it a mandatory six-month suspension of the person's driver's license for a person age 18 or older to whom an alcoholic beverage may not lawfully be sold to purchase, consume or possess alcohol in violation of § 4.1-304. [HB 1210](#); CH. 207

§ 4.1-306 amended.

Alcoholic beverage control; purchasing alcoholic beverages for one to whom they may not be sold; suspension of driver's license. Provides that any person found guilty of purchasing alcoholic beverages for one to whom they may not be sold (i.e., a person intoxicated, interdicted or underaged) shall have his license to operate a motor vehicle suspended for a period of not more than one year. Currently, suspension of a driver's license in these instances is discretionary. [HB113](#); CH. 87

§§ 9.1-902 and 18.2-472.1 amended.

Sex Offender Registry; penalties. Adds first offense child pornography possession and burglary with the intent to commit certain felony sex offenses as new Registry offenses if committed after July 1, 2006. Criminal homicide in conjunction with contributing to the delinquency of a child or child abuse is also added as a new Registry offense. The bill modifies the registration of a person convicted of murdering a child so that registration will be required if the victim is under 15 years of age and if the minor victim is 15 or older and the murder is related to a registerable sex offense. The bill adds burglary with the intent to commit certain felony sex offenses to the list of offenses, if committed twice, that are deemed sexually violent offenses. The bill places murder on an equal footing with sexually violent offenses for purposes of registration. Persons convicted of sex offenses in a foreign country will be required to register. The bill makes a second or subsequent conviction for failing to register as a sex offender a Class 6 felony and a second or subsequent conviction of failing to register as a violent sex offender a Class 5 felony. [HB 1333](#); CH. 931

§ 46.2-100 amended.

Definition of "highway." Expands the definition of "highway" in § 46.2-100 to include the entire width between the boundary lines of every way or place used for purposes of vehicular travel on any property owned, leased, or controlled by the United States government and located in the Commonwealth. [HB 496](#); CH. 540

§§ 15.2-919, 46.2-100, 46.2-808, 46.2-904, 46.2-905, 46.2-906, 46.2-906.1, 46.2-907, 46.2-908.1, 46.2-914, 46.2-932, 46.2-1047, and 46.2-1049 amended. § 46.2-911.1 added.

Mopeds, motorized scooters and skateboards. Allows localities to adopt ordinances regulating noise from mopeds and motorized scooters and skateboards. The bill also revises the definitions of "electric power-assisted bicycle," "moped," and "motorcycle," and defines "motorized skateboard or scooter" and "motor-driven cycle" and limits where motorized skateboards and scooters and motor-driven cycles may lawfully be operated. [HB 366](#); CH. 538

§§ 15.2-919, 46.2-100, 46.2-808, 46.2-904, 46.2-905, 46.2-906, 46.2-906.1, 46.2-907, 46.2-908.1, 46.2-914, 46.2-932, 46.2-1047, and 46.2-1049 amended. § 46.2-911.1 added.

Mopeds, motorized scooters and skateboards, and motor-driven cycles. Regulates the operation of "motorized skateboards and scooters," bans over-the-road operation of "motor-driven cycles," and differentiates these vehicles from motorcycles and mopeds. [SB 712](#); CH. 529

§ 46.2-613 amended.

Offenses relating to registration and certificates of title; penalty. Raises the penalty, from a traffic infraction to a Class 1 misdemeanor, for using a false name or address in any application for the registration of any vehicle, for a certificate of title, or for any renewal or duplicate certificate, or knowingly making a false statement of material fact or concealing a material fact or committing a fraud in any registration application. Additionally, the bill raises the penalty for knowingly displaying any fictitious registration card, certificate of title, or license plate or decal, or for knowingly displaying any registration card, certificate of title, or license plate or decal which has been cancelled, revoked, suspended or altered, or that is currently issued for another vehicle, to a Class 2 misdemeanor. Finally, the bill also raises the penalty for failing to surrender, on demand, any certificate of title, registration card, or license plate or decal which has been suspended, cancelled, or revoked, to a Class 2 misdemeanor. [HB 1005](#); CH. 444

§ 46.2-613 amended.

Offenses relating to registration, licensing, and certificates of title; penalties. This bill raises the penalty for using a false name or address in any application for the registration of any vehicle, for a certificate of title, or for any renewal or duplicate certificate, or knowingly making a false statement of material fact or concealing a material fact or committing a fraud in any registration application from a traffic infraction to a Class 1 misdemeanor. [SB 8](#); CH. 472

§ 46.2-716 amended.

License plates. Prohibits use of any bracket, holder, mounting, or frame that obscures the alpha-numeric license number, the name or abbreviated name of the state in which the vehicle is registered, or any decal, stamp, or other device indicating the month or year in which the vehicle's registration expires. [HB 827](#); CH. 549

§ 46.2-752 amended.

Display of local decal. Clarifies that a locality may eliminate the local decal without violating state statute. [HB 1284](#); CH. 148

§ 46.2-833 amended.

Traffic lights. Allows police to use wireless telecommunications devices in enforcement of traffic light signals. [HB 1047](#); CH. 928

§ 46.2-862 amended.

Reckless driving. Defines reckless driving as (i) driving a motor vehicle at a speed of 20 miles per hour or more in excess of the maximum speed limit or (ii) driving in excess of 80 miles per hour regardless of the maximum speed limit. [HB 1546](#); CH. 301

For additional changes and or to refresh your memory of current law visit:

<http://legis.state.va.us/Laws/CodeofVa.htm>



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.

A Fairfax County, Va.,
publication



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
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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.