

Mount Vernon Police Ledger September 2009

Safety Tips for Fairfax County Residents

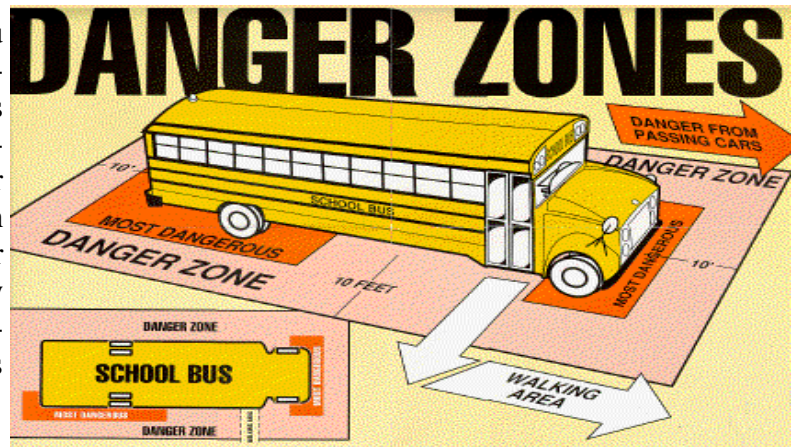
As students head back to school in coming weeks, drivers are reminded to keep children in mind when driving. School buses will once again be on the roads. Once the lights and stop sign on a school bus are activated, other drivers on the road must stop their vehicles in both directions, unless they are separated from the bus by a physical median. Too often, drivers pass a bus while it is loading or unloading our children. School bus drivers routinely report drivers who pass them while stopped, and when a specific area becomes a trouble spot, unmarked police cars will follow the buses on their routes and pull over any driver who disobey the law.



Other vehicle safety threats to children include aggressive drivers and those who speed, especially in school zones and residential areas. Drivers must abide by the 25 mph speed limit in school zones when the wink-o-matics are blinking. Fairfax County Police ask that you watch for and follow the direction of crossing guards and safety patrols. Another safety issue in Fairfax County is turning right on a red light. Before making a right turn at a red light, you must stop, look for oncoming cars and pedestrians and then—only when conditions permit—you can make the turn. Too many drivers treat red lights like yield signs...they are not.

School Bus Danger Zone

If you have children riding a school bus, you should talk to them about the importance of danger zones around the school bus. Danger zones are the areas where children are in the most danger of being hit. Make sure your child is familiar with the zone listed in the picture. Children should stay ten feet away from the bus or as far away as they can and never go behind it. They should take five giant steps in front of the bus before crossing, so they can be seen by the bus driver.



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Dates to Remember

- September 7- Labor Day
- September 8 - First day of school
- September 8 - CAC meeting
- September 22 - Autumn begins

School Resource Officers Getting Ready for Back to School

By PFC Daryl Davis

Although students start back to Fairfax County Public Schools on September 2nd, Fairfax County Police School Resource Officers (SRO) will head back a few weeks earlier.

This year, 52 uniformed officers will be walking the halls of Fairfax County's middle, secondary, and high schools. Prior to this, they will attend specialized training at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy and prepare to effectively work and respond in a school environment.

School Resource Officers play a vital role in maintaining a safe and secure environment for thousands of Fairfax County students. The SRO program is an excellent tool to sustain effective interaction among the police department, school staff, students, and parents. The Fairfax County SRO program has been in existence since the 1994-95 school year.

A routine day for most SROs consists of consulting with administration about discipline issues, resolving minor conflicts between students, providing resources and advice to students in crisis, speaking to classes about laws and how they apply to students in the school and in the community. The SRO also investigates all criminal activity, to include narcotic detection and prevention, gang recognition and prevention, preserving evidence, interviewing, and follow up procedures on all cases involving criminal charges, against students.

The Mount Vernon District Station has five SROs assigned to its public middle and high schools. Beginning in September 2009 the following officers will be assigned to those schools:

PFC Marvin Goodley	West Potomac High
MPO Fred Kessel	Mount Vernon High
MPO Harvey Lyles	Bryant Alternative
MPO Robert Miller	Walt Whitman Middle
PFC Ashley Buckhaults	Carl Sandburg Middle



Each year, the Fairfax County Public School Board selects a Distinguished School Resource Officer. The selection process stems from nominations by individual school administrations for outstanding service's provided by their assigned SRO.

PARENTS
WHO HOST
LOSE
THE MOST™



Don't be
a party to
teenage
drinking.

**It's against
the law.**

Students!

Do Not Be, and Don't Let Your Friends Be, a Victim of Crime

By PFC Daryl Davis

The most common crime faced in schools today is larceny. With the invention of many electronic devices such as cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, digital cameras, PlayStations, and much more, the number of larceny reports is on the rise. In most cases the stolen items were not properly secured.

Students need to protect and secure their property while at the school. Merely placing items out of sight, such as in an unlocked locker or unattended book bag

Tips for protecting your property:

- * Record make, model, and serial numbers on all of your electronic devices. Keep these records at home. Many stolen items are recovered by the police but the rightful owner cannot be located without a serial number.
- * Report all stolen property immediately to School Security **and** the School Resource Officer.
- * If you can, engrave or etch your name into your property.
- * When assigned a hall locker, keep it locked at all times and **DO NOT** give the combination to anyone.
- * Gym Lockers – If your school provides a lock, **USE IT!** If they do not provide a lock, bring your own and do not share the combination with anyone.
- * Do not share lockers.
- * Do not leave your book bags, purses, gym bags, or any other carrying case unattended at any time. In the past, reports have shown that items have been taken out of bags and purses with the owner just a few feet away. It is further recommended that you keep money and other valuables on your person or locked up.
- * Report any suspicious activity or knowledge you have pertaining to a crime to the SRO immediately.



It is recommended that students and parents contact and get to know the SRO at your school. The SRO is not just a police officer. They wear many different hats at the school and are an excellent resource for students, parents and school staff.

Every SRO would like students and parents to feel comfortable coming to them with any problem they may have or just to say hi. Knowing the SRO is a crucial benefit for students, parents, and the SROs themselves.

Fairfax County Police

Gang Enforcement

In 1997, as gang-related incidents began to occur more frequently, the police department formally targeted youth gang crime as a priority. At that time, the police department instituted the Gang Investigations Unit. This unit was the first of its kind in the Northern Virginia area and continues to serve as a resource for information and training to other regional law enforcement agencies. Fairfax County's gang unit has 15 full-time sworn personnel dedicated to investigating gang activity.

To report suspected gang activity in Fairfax County call 703-691-2131 or in an emergency dial 9-1-1. Certain reports may be filed online by visiting <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/CRS/CRSDiscl.htm>.

The gang unit provides gang awareness presentations to citizen groups, school organizations, governmental bodies and other police departments. In addition to the gang unit, the police department has several proactive gang interdiction programs. To request a presentation please contact GangOutReach@fairfaxcounty.gov

The police department also actively confronts criminal street gang activity with several education and public service programs including:

- Public education and awareness programs and presentations
- Gang activity awareness training to school resource officers (SROs) and Fairfax County public school personnel each August, prior to the start of school
- SROs at all middle and high schools who are involved in numerous activities to prevent youth gang involvement
- School Resource Officers and seventh and eight grade public school teachers, team teaching selected lessons in the Family Life Education "Healthy Choices" curriculum
- Youth mentoring programs in schools and in the community
- Community organized graffiti removal programs
- Gang coordinators at each district station share local information with the gang unit and provide presentations to the community
- Active participation and leadership of police department personnel in forums, boards and commissions related to youth violence and gang crime

In 2003, funding from the United States Congress, through Congressman Frank Wolf, enabled the creation of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force. This unit bridges the efforts of our Gang Investigations Unit with partners from the metro region including representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (US-ICE). The result is a coordinated law enforcement and public information effort to combat gang activity. To report information regarding gang-related crime to the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force call 1-866-NO-GANGS (1-866-664-2647). This is a recording only and you may remain anonymous.

Laws of the Month

§ 46.2-334.001. Court to suspend driver's license issued to certain minors.

Upon receipt by the juvenile and domestic relations district court within whose jurisdiction the minor resides of a petition from the principal, or his designee, of any public school in the Commonwealth that any person who is less than 18 years old and attending that public school has had 10 or more unexcused absences from school on consecutive school days, the court shall give notice and opportunity for the minor to show cause why his driver's license should not be suspended. Upon failure to show cause for the license not to be suspended, the court may suspend the minor's driver's license for any period of time, until the minor is 18 years old.

§ 46.2-1078.1. Use of handheld personal communications devices in certain motor vehicles; exceptions; penalty.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a moving motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth while using any handheld personal communications device to:

- 1. Manually enter multiple letters or text in the device as a means of communicating with another person; or*
- 2. Read any email or text message transmitted to the device or stored within the device, provided that this prohibition shall not apply to any name or number stored in the device nor to any caller identification information.*

B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

- 1. The operator of any emergency vehicle;*
- 2. An operator who is lawfully parked or stopped;*
- 3. The use of factory-installed or aftermarket global positioning systems (GPS) or wireless communications devices used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system; or*
- 4. Any person using a handheld personal communications device to report an emergency.*

**HELP REDUCE
INJURIES RESULTING
FROM CRASHES.
WEAR YOUR SAFETY
BELTS!**





FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Would you like to become more involved in the Mount Vernon District? You can, by attending the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. The CAC was established in 1979 to enhance the Police Department's ability to communicate with and better serve the community.

The CAC meeting can involve presentations about any aspect of the Police Department. In addition, you will find out what is going on in your community and will have the opportunity to talk to the Commander of the Mount Vernon District Station and express your concerns directly.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and runs about 1½ hours. The meetings are normally held the second Tuesday of each month in the community room of the Mount Vernon District Station at 2500 Parkers Lane. There are no dues or membership requirements, and dress is casual. Late arrival/early departure is OK. This is time well spent, and we hope to see you there. For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Office at (703) 360-8928.

The CAC will reconvene on September 8, at 7:30 p.m. Listed below are some of the topics that will be presented at the CAC meetings this year:

September 8: Subject– Summer Updates and District Status:

Speaker Captain Moyer Mount Vernon Station Commander

October 13: Subject– Emergency Preparedness

Speaker MPO A. Eggers

November 10: Subject– Identity Theft

Speaker Detective T. Polhemus

Other anticipated topics for future meetings may include:

Sexting

Gang Awareness/Prevention

Medical Examiner

DWI and Alcohol Awareness

New Police CAD System

Narcotics Awareness/Prevention

Questions or to register for e-mail alerts, please contact:

Master Police Officer Robbie Clift

Crime Prevention Officer

Mount Vernon District Station

Office # (703) 360-8400 Ext. 2259

Crossing Guards Needed

Being a crossing guard is a very important job. A crossing guard makes sure students cross the street safely and keeps an eye on strangers in the area. In essence, you are our extended eyes and ears for the community. When there is not a crossing guard to work a mandated crossing location, a police officer has to handle the crossing. There can be four to five crossings a day that the police have to handle. This means there are fewer officers to handle calls, which increases response time to critical incidents.

Please call the Mount Vernon station if you are interested in becoming a crossing guard. This is another great opportunity for you to help out in the community and get paid doing it.

What do Crossing Guards Do?

- Work 10 hours per week.
- Control traffic to ensure the safe and orderly movement of student pedestrians to and from school.
- Monitor operation of wink-o-matic school flashing lights during opening and closing times and report any malfunctions.
- Report hazardous traffic conditions at student crossing locations.

What qualifications do you need?

- High school diploma or a G.E.D. issued by a state department of education.
- Knowledge of traffic regulations.
- Ability and willingness to work in inclement weather.
- Ability to work with children, ability to follow written and oral instructions, tact and courtesy.

Applicants should be able to pass a medical exam provided by the Occupational Health Center. They must satisfactorily complete a criminal background check.

Benefits: Uniforms and training are provided. Employees are able to participate in a retirement program; they earn annual and sick leave according to hours worked (minimum of 1 hour per pay period); they are reimbursed for mileage and afforded the option of enrolling in a health plan if they have more than two crossings.

How do you apply? You can get an application at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police or from the Mount Vernon District Police Station. You can also contact Sgt. John Stern at the Mount Vernon station at 703-360-8400 ext 2298 or e-mail Jonathan.Stern@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Pay: \$12.80 to \$21.34/hour

COME JOIN OUR TEAM



CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
IS SEEKING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR THE
POSITION OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mount Vernon District

Crime Prevention Unit



URGENT

Crime Prevention For Your Car

Several communities in the Mount Vernon District have been targeted in the nighttime by vandals and thieves in the past month. We are working hard to solve these cases, but we need your help. If you are a victim of a crime, please report it to the police.

Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables visible from the outside. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup.
- Do not leave other valuables in the vehicle, including laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- When possible, try to park the vehicle in a well-lit, busy area.
- Record your serial numbers to all your electronics such as your GPS, radio, etc.

1. Make _____

2. Model _____

3. Serial # _____

For more information regarding this or other important crime prevention initiatives, please contact the Mount Vernon Crime Prevention Unit at 703-360-8928.

To request this information in an alternate format, call:

703-360-8928. TTY 703-204-2264



A Fairfax County, Va.

Publication



Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee

Chairman - Judy Schultheis

Vice Chairman - Ginger Krup

Treasurer - Marianne Baltimore

Secretary - Mary Alvarado

Mount Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee Fairfax County Police Department

Mount Vernon District Station
2511 Parkers Lane

Alexandria, Virginia 22306

Station Phone Number: 703-360-8400

Crime Prevention: 703-360-8928

Email: mtvcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov

Non-Emergency—703-691-2131

EMERGENCY—911

Mount Vernon District Station

Station Commander - Captain Dave Moyer

Assistant Commander - Lieutenant Mike Wall

Crime Prevention Officer - MPO Robbie Clift

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664



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**Remember, for Non-Emergency events or reports, call
703-691-2131**

The Mount Vernon Citizen's Advisory Committee's monthly meeting will reconvene September 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon District Station.

The topic for the September 8th meeting will be on events that occurred over the summer and where we are going as a police department.

The topics scheduled for the October 13th meeting will be on Emergency Preparedness and the speaker will be MPO Alley Eggers.

