




Sully Spotlight

Heroes Live Forever
 Badge 1417  Badge 2806

August 2008

Inside This Issue:

<i>Officer of the Quarter</i>	1
<i>Rules of the Road for Bicyclists</i>	2
<i>Cold Case</i>	3
<i>My Neighborhood-Police Incident Mapping</i>	5
<i>Never Leave a Child Unattended in a Vehicle</i>	6
<i>Child Seat Schedule</i>	7
<i>CAC Corner</i>	7
<i>Traffic Trivia</i>	7
<i>Home Security Surveys</i>	9
<i>TRIAD/SALT Group</i>	9

DETECTIVE TIM COOK AWARDED OFFICER OF THE QUARTER



Detective Tim Cook was honored on June 17, 2008 as the Citizens' Advisory Committee's Officer of the Quarter. Detective Cook, a 10 year veteran of the Fairfax County Police, was nominated by his supervisor for his desire, dedication and commitment to duty.

Detective Cook was investigating a series of over 20 larceny complaints that had occurred at a local gym. These larcenies included jewelry, cash, credit cards, Ipods and many other items that had been stolen from lockers that had been locked.

Over time, a suspect developed, however; there was no physical evidence to link the suspect, a gym employee, to the thefts. However, every time a theft would occur, this employee was either working or had been seen visiting the gym.

Finally after the theft of two rings with a total estimated value of \$20,000.00, Detective Cook seized the opportunity to obtain timely information and obtained a search warrant for the suspect's residence.

The search was successful in uncovering some of the stolen items and the illegal manufacture of fraudulent identifications. Eventually the two rings were recovered .

At the conclusion of this portion of the investigation , Detective Cook had obtained enough probable cause to arrest five individuals. Between these five individuals, 12 felony theft charges were placed.

A Pennsylvania native, Tim previously worked as a police officer in Peachtree City, Georgia for three years, prior to joining the Fairfax County Police Department. After graduating from the Police Academy, his first assignment was to patrol at the Mason Station. In May 2003, Detective Cook transferred to the Sully District Station. He remained in patrol until being selected to become a detective in the Criminal Investigations Section.

Tim constantly maintains an upbeat attitude and a pro-active work ethic. We congratulate Detective Cook for his accomplishments and being selected to receive this award.!



A Fairfax County, Va.,
 publication



Rules of the Road for Bicyclists for Bicyclists

By MPO W. M. Brock

In the past two weeks I have read about two separate incidents in which a bicyclist was either killed or seriously injured. In last month's newsletter I did an article on bicycle security. This month, I will expand upon that and cover rules and regulations for operating a bicycle on the roadway.

Before I begin, it is imperative that a bicyclist adhere to the rules and obey the law as prescribed by the Code of Virginia. Remember, the average car weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of 3,500 pounds. A bicycle is a fraction of that weight at approximately 25 to 30 pounds. Thus, when a collision takes place between a car and a bicycle, the weight advantage belongs to the car.



- ☞ Obey all traffic signs and signals. Ride responsibly!
- ☞ Ride with the flow of traffic, never against the flow.
- ☞ Use hand signals to let others know what you are planning to do.
- ☞ Ride in a straight line and to the right of the traffic lane. When passing a parked vehicle, try to maintain at least a door length between yourself and the parked vehicle.
- ☞ Always wear a helmet. A helmet can help to reduce or prevent injury to your brain should you be involved in an accident.
- ☞ Never wear headphones while riding your bike.
- ☞ Make sure you are wearing light or reflective clothing, especially after dark.
- ☞ If riding at night, your bike must be equipped with a headlight, white in color and a taillight that is red in color. Both lights need to be clearly visible for a distance of at least 500 feet.
- ☞ A bike must also have a red taillight visible for a distance of at least 500 feet during the day or night if the posted speed limit is 35 MPH or greater. Keep both hands on the handlebars, unless signaling and do not show off.



COLD CASE

By MPO W. M. Brock



Fairfax County Crime Solvers

While looking back on unsolved cases from Fairfax County, I stumbled upon one that caught my eye. A homicide case that came to light on December 6, 1993, when a human skull of a yet unidentified female was discovered by a worker doing survey work off of Compton Road, near the intersection of Sharpsburg Place and Calvary Place. Wanting to know more, I contacted the current case agent, Detective Steve Milefsky, who is assigned to the Cold Case Squad within the Criminal Investigations Bureau. Detective Milefsky, a 29 year veteran with the police department, readily shared information about the case with me. Even though this case is almost 15 years old, Detective Milefsky's recollection and energy level were still clear and focused on the details surrounding this mystery.

After discovery of the skull, the area was secured. Dr. Douglas Owsley, an anthropologist with the Smithsonian Institution, was contacted by members of the Crime Scene Section. He assisted with the recovery and study of skeletal remains from a shallow grave close to where the skull was found. Some items of clothing, a pair of shoes, an article of jewelry, a hair pick, a banana hair clip and a tag reading, "Lifesavers" were also recovered from the scene.

It is estimated that the body was left there sometime between the latter part of 1988 and before January of 1993. A dental examination determined the victim most likely did not take care of her teeth. It also appeared she had a gap between her upper two front teeth.

It is believed that the victim was a white female between 27 to 34 years of age. She was approximately 5'1" to 5' 3" with brown, bushy hair. She had been stabbed in the upper body multiple times.

In 2006, DNA was extracted from a bone sample provided to the FBI. This DNA information was later placed in the National Missing Person DNA Database for future comparison. To date at least 150 missing people have been checked and eliminated as the victim in this case. With the great strides in DNA technology, it is hoped that one day soon we will be able to match the victim's DNA to that of a missing individual. If this occurs, there is still the question of who killed her. Detective Milefsky advised me that even after 15 years, the police department is still receiving tips and calls in reference to this case. Detective Milefsky stated, "The answer to solving the case is sometimes just a phone call away! That one piece of information we had been missing."

Who was this person? Where did she live? When was her birthday? Obviously she had a name, an identity and a life of her own. Did she have any family or friends in the area? Was she reported as a missing person? How did she wind up being stabbed and buried in a shallow, secluded grave?

There are several more questions that come to mind, but you get the point. I will bet someone out there holds the answer to one or more of these questions. It is never too late to come forward. What you may think is common knowledge or is already known by the police, may not be. Please report any information you may hold in reference to this case. Let us all do what we can to bring closure to this case.



COLD CASE

Photographs
Photographs



Sketch artist's interpretation of victim



Clay reconstruction interpretation of victim- Front view



Clay reconstruction interpretation of victim- Side profile view



Items recovered with skeletal remains. Top row left to right: Lifesavers tag, earring, shoe (bottom view), shoe (top view). Bottom row left to right: hair pick, hair clip

If you wish to read more about this case, information has been posted on The Doe Network: Case File 120UFVA (<http://www.doenetwork.org/cases/120ufva.html>)

You can also find information on the National Center for Missing Adults under: VA - Jane Doe 0055 (<http://www.theyaremissd.org>).

If someone out there has any information on this case, to include the identity of the victim or suspect, please contact the **Fairfax County Crime Solvers** at **1-866-411-TIPS** or **703-691-8888**. You do not have to leave a name, just the information. A \$1000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to the arrest and indictment in this case.



FAIRFAX COUNTY CRIMESOLVERS: 1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime_solvers.htm

My Neighborhood

Police Incident Mapping

By MPO W. M. Brock

Each week I receive several requests for information about incidents that have taken place throughout the Sully District. Some requests are fairly specific and accurate, as to the date and time of occurrence. Others are very broad and vague on the details. With several thousand incidents taking place on a given day, it is sometimes like dealing with the proverbial, searching for a needle in a haystack.

Please do not take this as me condemning these requests. I applaud your initiative and the interest that it shows about your community. What I do frown upon is the lack of specifics. I know there will be times when limited or sketchy information will be the best we have, but lately this seems to be the norm and not the exception.

To help me help you, I am going to provide information on a tool that is available to anyone with internet access. "My Neighborhood - Police Incident Mapping" is a program that allows the user to search for an incident using many different criteria.

You can search by using an address, a census tract, an intersection, a police district, park, recreation center, school attendance area or school.

Once you have selected your method of search, you then have the option to search by a radius of 1/4 mile, 1/2 mile or 1 mile increments. The system is designed to search as far back as two years. A search can be done for one day of the month or for every day of the month that has been selected. The last option given is the type of incident. You may select a specific incident type or search all incidents. The system is usually updated within 48 hours of an incident occurring.

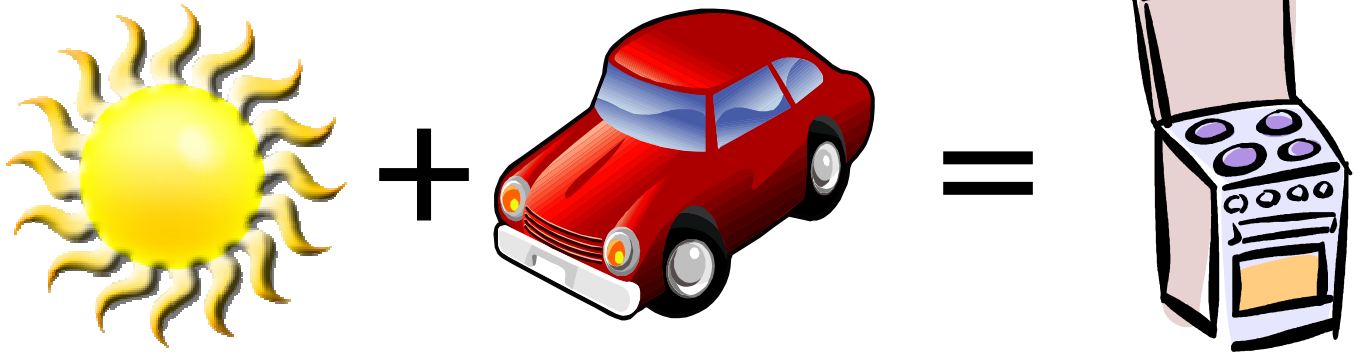
Some crimes may not appear on the map or may be combined with other incidents. This is done in instances where a victim's identity needs to be protected. The locations are also listed by street hundred blocks and not by specific addresses. Once again, this is done to protect an individual who may be a victim in a specific incident.

This is a very neat mapping website. It allows the user to gain information about an incident that has taken place. Hopefully this will provide enough information to answer your question. If not, each incident listed provides a police case number. This can be used as a reference for me, in the event you are making a further inquiry. Keep in mind that in many cases, I am limited as to the information I can release. This is especially true for an incident that may still be under investigation. Whatever the case, I am usually able to quell fears associated with a given incident.

To access the incident mapper, you need to go to the listed website. Once there, you will need to read and accept the disclaimer. After checking the box indicating that you have done so, the page will refresh itself. All that is left is selecting the resolution for your map. If you have a high speed internet connection, you are most likely able to work with the higher resolution map. Do not hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have further questions about the website.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gisapps/myneighborhood/mynpolice.aspx#police>

What would you say if you saw someone place a child in an oven?



Leaving one in a parked car could have the same consequences!

In minutes, the interior of a vehicle can become as hot as an oven. A study* has shown that the average increase in temperature was 3.2 degrees Fahrenheit every five minutes. Eighty percent of that temperature rise took place within the first 30 minutes that the vehicle was parked. The study went on to show that even with an outside temperature of 72 degrees Fahrenheit, the interior of your vehicle can reach 117 degrees Fahrenheit within 60 minutes. Leaving a window partially opened or cracked did not have an effect on lowering the internal temperature of the vehicle. What about a 96 degree day? Try an internal vehicle temperature of 134 degrees Fahrenheit.

Things happen in a matter of seconds. In addition to hyperthermia (heat stroke), there are other dangers to leaving a child unattended in a vehicle. These dangers include but are not limited to:

- ☞ Carbon monoxide poisoning (if vehicle is idling)
- ☞ Car accidentally put into gear
- ☞ Abduction
- ☞ Theft of vehicle (with child inside)
- ☞ Injury from power windows or sunroof
- ☞ Becoming trapped in the trunk of the car (from fold down rear seat)

Keep in mind, your vehicle is not a babysitter. Never leave a child alone in or around a car! Keep your vehicle locked. Immediately report any child you may observe that has been left unattended in a vehicle. In an emergency dial 911!

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

Is your child seat installed properly? Is it the correct seat for your child's age and weight? Did you know that your Sully District Station offers free child seat inspections by certified technicians?

Next available dates: Thursday, August 14, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 21, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Thursday, August 28, 2008 5 p.m.—8:30 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seat yourself, so that they may properly inspect and make adjustments, as necessary. For additional child seat inspection times, you may call the Fairfax County Operations Support Bureau at 703-280-0559.

CAC Corner



The Sully District Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting is on break until September 16, 2008. At 7:30 PM on that date, the regular meetings will resume.



Traffic Trivia



By PFC Brett Katinsky

Over the past few months, we have experienced some severe thunderstorms in our area. These storms have a great impact on traffic. With trees down, flooded roadways, and power outages, these storms have a definite effect on our commutes to and from work or anywhere else we may be traveling.

This month the focus will be on the proper approach to an intersection, when the traffic lights are out. We will also take a look to see who has the right of way at an intersection with a four-way stop.

Virginia law states that if you approach an intersection that is out of service due to a power failure or other event that prevents the giving of signals, drivers shall proceed through as if the intersection was controlled by stop signs on all sides. The driver on the left must yield to the driver on the right. The law does not give right-of-way to anyone. It only states which driver must yield to another. This **does not** apply if the intersection is being controlled by police officers directing traffic, portable stop signs, or flashing traffic lights.

Keep in mind that yield may also mean **stop** if you cannot merge safely into the flow of traffic, as covered in last month's Traffic Trivia.

Continued on page 8

Please remember when the weather is bad slow down, pay attention, and drive defensively. Also, some drivers do not know the law, as mentioned above or they just choose not to obey it. When approaching an intersection that is out of service, slow down well in advance so you do not get rear ended by the driver behind you. If they blow their horn at you, just ignore it. Remember **you** are the one responsible for your actions. If you do not obey the law and cause an accident **you** will be the one that is liable, not the impatient driver behind you blowing the horn.

§ 46.2-833. Traffic lights; penalty.

A. Signals by traffic lights shall be as follows:

Steady red indicates that moving traffic shall stop and remain stopped as long as the red signal is shown, except in the direction indicated by a lighted green arrow.

Green indicates the traffic shall move in the direction of the signal and remain in motion as long as the green signal is given, except that such traffic shall yield to other vehicles and pedestrians lawfully within the intersection.

Steady amber indicates that a change is about to be made in the direction of the moving of traffic. When the amber signal is shown, traffic which has not already entered the intersection, including the crosswalks, shall stop if it is not reasonably safe to continue, but traffic which has already entered the intersection shall continue to move until the intersection has been cleared. The amber signal is a warning that the steady red signal is imminent.

Flashing red indicates that traffic shall stop before entering an intersection.

Flashing amber indicates that traffic may proceed through the intersection or past such signal with reasonable care under the circumstances.

B. If the traffic lights controlling an intersection are out of service because of a power failure or other event that prevents the giving of signals by the traffic lights, the drivers of vehicles approaching such an intersection shall proceed as though such intersection were controlled by a stop sign on all approaches. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to: intersections controlled by portable stop signs, intersections with law-enforcement officers or other authorized persons directing traffic, or intersections controlled by traffic lights displaying flashing red or flashing amber lights as provided in subsection A.

C. The driver of any motor vehicle may be detained or arrested for a violation of this section if the detaining law-enforcement officer is in uniform, displays his badge of authority, and (i) has observed the violation or (ii) has received a message by radio or other wireless telecommunication device from another law-enforcement officer who observed the violation. In the case of a person being detained or arrested based on a radio message, the message shall be sent immediately after the violation is observed, and the observing officer shall furnish the license number or other positive identification of the vehicle to the detaining officer.

Violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable by a fine of no more than \$350.

(Code 1950, § 46-203; 1952, c. 671; 1954, c. 381; 1958, c. 541, § 46.1-184; 1964, c. 613; 1966, c. 607; 1970, cc. 515, 736; 1972, cc. 4, 234, 454; 1974, c. 347; 1976, cc. 30, 31; 1977,

Sully District Police Station
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard
Chantilly, VA 20151

Main Phone: 703-814-7000
Fax: 703-814-7013

File a Report on Line
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crs

Virginia Amber Alert
<http://www.vaambersalert.com>

Aggressive Driving—
Report Online at
https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ps/police/traf_sfty_report.htm



PHONE NUMBERS

Fairfax County Crime Solvers :
1-866-411-TIPS

Fairfax County Police Non-Emergency:
703-691-2131

Sully District Crime Prevention Office:
703-814-7018
Or
703-814-7048

Child Car Seat Installation:
Sully District Station
703-814-7000 x 5140

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

Citizen Reporting System (to file reports only)
703-691-2131

Home Security Surveys

This is just a reminder: The Fairfax County Police Department provides Home Security Inspections, free of charge. What is this, you may ask? Here is a brief description of this service.

A qualified, trained Fairfax County Police officer or auxiliary officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your home security. These recommendations will be provided in writing to allow you to review and implement them at your own pace.

Contact either crime prevention officer at the Sully District Station to arrange your free inspection.



Virginia TRIAD/SALT Group

You are invited to join the Fairfax County Police Department's new Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT) organization. Chapters are now being formed in each police district across the county. SALT Councils act as an advisory group from their specific geographical region. All of the SALT Councils then come together to form the Triad for the entire county.

Triad is a three-pronged approach between law enforcement, senior citizens, and service providers to address crime prevention for seniors. The goal of Triad is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors, increase awareness of scams and frauds targeting seniors, strengthen communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educate seniors on local and state resources that are available in their community. There are currently 89 local Triad agreements encompassing 225 cities, counties and towns within Virginia.

Participants will play an important role in collaborating with the public safety community. Make sure your voice is heard. Volunteer today! We really need your support to get this program off of the ground.

For more information and to learn how to get involved call MPO W. M. Brock at 703-814-7048 or PFC P. B. Katinsky at 703-814-7018. You can also e-mail us at wbrocl@fairfaxcounty.gov or pkatin@fairfaxcounty.gov

Newsletter compiled by MPO W. M. Brock