



January 2006

Santa's Ride Another Success!



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Events of Interest for January 2006

- ◆ Sunday, January 1—New Year's Day
- ◆ Monday, January 16—Martin Luther King Day
- ◆ Tuesday, January 17 - 7:30 p.m.—Citizens' Advisory Committee Meeting, held at 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard

For the third year running, the residents, businesses and community groups of the Sully District have opened their hearts and donated to the Santa's Ride. This year surpassed the last two years combined! Santa arrived on Wednesday, December 14 with his helpers to load the toys donated for sick and needy children. Santa was welcomed by children from the Clifton Children's Academy and other community residents who waited patiently to say hello to Santa, Mrs. Claus and Frosty. The toys were distributed to children spending their holiday in the hospital and also to children in the community who are not fortunate to wake up to toys and gifts on Christmas morning.

The Sully District Police Station, along with the Fairfax County Motor Squad, wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to everyone who donated a toy, game, or other item to Santa's Ride. With your generosity, many children had a happier holiday season! Next year, we hope to brighten even more little lives! Thank you!

Santa's Ride 2005



WHO MENTORED YOU?

By MPO Vincent Darconte

January is National Mentoring Month. On October 24, 2005, plans were announced for the 5th Annual National Mentoring Month campaign scheduled for January 2006. This nationwide drive to recruit volunteer mentors for young people will target America's 77 million baby boomers with the message, "Share What You Know. Mentor A Child." January will mark the milestone 60th birthday of the Baby Boomer Generation.

Research has shown that introducing a mentor into a child's life can have a powerful impact, preventing drug abuse and youth violence while greatly enhancing a young person's prospects for leading a fulfilling and productive life. A study conducted by Public/Private Ventures that measured the impact of mentoring found that children with mentors:

- ∞ were 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs;
- ∞ were 27% less likely to begin using alcohol;
- ∞ were 33% less likely to engage in school violence;
- ∞ had improved school attendance and performance, and better attitudes toward completing school work; and
- ∞ had improved peer and family relationships

Yet, despite the great need for mentors and the expansion of quality mentoring efforts, just 2.5 million youngsters nationwide are in informal mentoring relationships- which means 15 million still need mentors. The continual challenge faced by mentoring organizations is mentor recruitment.

The Fairfax Mentoring Partnership, an initiative of the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, aims to address this challenge by supporting our county-wide network of mentoring organizations to ensure that every young person in Fairfax County who wants or needs a mentor will have a caring, involved and effective mentor. To this end, the Fairfax Mentoring Partnership is the lead partner conducting the local awareness campaign during National Mentoring Month.

Several Fairfax County Police Officers participate in the school mentoring program. Second Lieutenant Michael F. Grinnan (Sully District Station) states: "Every time I go to see my mentee, I see a look of excitement in his eyes. The fact that he enjoys and looks forward to our time together makes me feel like I'm making a real difference in his life. Whether we are drawing pictures or shooting baskets in the gym, we enjoy the time together. Not only does it make me feel like I'm a positive influence, it makes me feel like a kid again."

To find out more about the national campaign, go to www.WhoMentoredYou.org



School Safety Patrol is one of AAA's oldest programs. Now more than 500,000 children throughout the country participate in the program. Over 85,000 patrols alone are in the AAA Mid-Atlantic territory.

In May of 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "In addition to the day-to-day protection against accidents to school children afforded by the patrols, the movement is unquestionably a fine builder of morale. It also develops a sense of responsibility which cannot but make for good citizenship. It is my sincere hope that it will continue to expand and remain as a permanent feature of our national effort in the interest of traffic safety."

Many famous Americans have held the position of AAA School Safety Patrol, including former U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, five current and former supreme court justices, five Olympic gold medalists and 21 astronauts.

AAA Mid-Atlantic and the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety & Education support the program by providing safety patrol materials and equipment worn by all school safety patrols. In addition, the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education sponsors five School Safety Patrol Officers' Training Camps in conjunction with local police departments each summer. Each year, school safety patrols are recognized with an Outstanding School Safety Patrol Awards Luncheon throughout the AAA Mid-Atlantic territory. Selection criteria for choosing an Outstanding School Safety Patrol include leadership, sound academics, promptness, neatness and industriousness. All honorees receive plaques recognizing their accomplishments and \$150 in U.S. Savings Bonds. Without a doubt, thousands of young lives have been spared as a result of patrol activities.

MPO Amy Chambers (School Education Officer) oversees the Sully District Station School Safety Patrol.



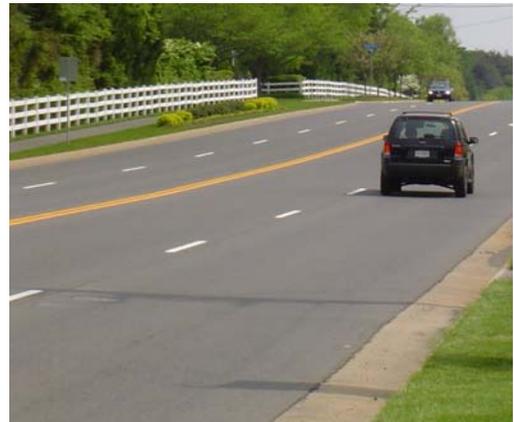
To pass or not to pass. What is a divided highway?

One of the duties of a patrol officer is to direct traffic at school crossings. I was performing this function and noticed four vehicles pass a stopped school bus on Stone Road in the Sully District Station. The school bus was in the north bound traffic lanes, the vehicles in question were south bound. I was able to stop two of the vehicles and was surprised at the drivers' explanation on why they did not stop. The drivers of the vehicles stated Stone Road is a divided highway so they are not required to stop. In part they were both correct, the code of Virginia 46.2-859 states in part "The driver of a vehicle, however, need not stop when approaching a school bus if the school bus is stopped on the other roadway of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway when the other roadway, access road, or driveway is separated from the roadway on which he is driving by a physical barrier or an unpaved area.

So what is a divided highway/physical barrier in regards to school buses? For a roadway to be considered a divided highway there must be some type of physical barrier between the two sections of roadway, such as a cement median or a grass median. If you are ever in doubt **STOP**. The few minutes spent waiting is worth not having someone injured.



Divided Highway—
You do not stop for buses



Not A Divided Highway -
YOU MUST STOP!



Winter Driving- Make Safety the Number One Priority!

As the weather begins to get colder, you should begin taking steps to prepare for the weather that comes with winter. The first thing you should do is **winterize your car**. Check antifreeze, defroster, emergency signals, heater, oil, tires, windshield washer fluid and wiper blades. Pack a small emergency supply bag in your car in the event you break down or get stranded. You should pack a blanket, jumper cables, first aid kit, flashlight, ice scraper, small shovel and sand or kitty litter to give traction if you become stuck.

Prior to driving in winter weather, you should consider whether you really need to be traveling. If you have no choice, take a few minutes to prepare the car.

- * Let your car warm up for a few minutes.
- * Clean the entire car before you begin to drive. Ensure all windows are clear of ice and snow. Remove all snow or ice to ensure it does not blow off and strike other vehicles on the road.
- * Make sure all lights work and are clear of ice and/or snow.
- * Clean ice and snow off your windshield wipers to ensure they work properly.
- * Check the horn, adjust mirrors and test your brakes.

When traveling in winter weather, remember to maintain **SPACE**.

Speed—The number one cause of winter driving collisions is driving too fast.

Patience and courtesy save lives.

Awareness of other vehicles and your environment is essential.

Concentration—The increased hazards of winter driving make this important.

Exit—Always leave yourself an out.

If you should become stuck in snow:

- * Watch out for other cars.
- * Shovel the snow from the front and back of all wheels.
- * Try to ease out without spinning the wheels.
- * If this does not work, try to rock the vehicle by shifting between forward and reverse.
- * If all else fails—call for help!

Have a safe winter!

Sully District Station Child Seat Inspections

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

Next available dates: Tuesday, January 3, 2006 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
 Thursday, January 12, 2006 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, January 17, 2006 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
 Thursday, January 26, 2006 5:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.



No appointment is necessary. Our technicians request that you make an effort to install your child safety seats 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.



Traffic Trivia

Code of Virginia § 46.2-1040. Hazard lights.

Motor vehicles, trailers, and semi trailers, when temporarily stopped on the traveled or paved portion of the highway so as to create a traffic hazard, shall flash all four turn signals simultaneously to signal approaching motorists of the existing hazard whenever such vehicle is equipped with a device which will cause the four turn signals to flash simultaneously. All four turn signals may be flashed simultaneously on a vehicle slowed or stopped at the scene of a traffic hazard, when traveling as part of a funeral procession, or when traveling at a speed of thirty miles per hour or less. Except for vehicles traveling as part of a funeral procession, all four turn signals shall not be flashed simultaneously while the vehicle is traveling faster than thirty miles per hour.

School buses shall flash all four turn signals when approaching and stopping at railroad grade crossings.

Parking in a fire lane and activating your hazard lights does not make parking there legal. Obey parking signs. Do not park in fire lanes or no parking zones.

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/ps/police/homepage.htm

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

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

SAFE (Self Defense Class)
703-246-7806

Citizen Reporting System (for reports only)
703-464-4756



What is Neighborhood Watch? How much time do I have to commit?

These are frequently asked questions about Neighborhood Watch. When people think of Neighborhood Watch, they think of walking around in orange vests that say “Neighborhood Watch” and having to commit to a schedule. Some neighborhoods do have this type of Neighborhood Watch. Many communities, however, elect to have one of the other three types of Neighborhood Watch.

Passive Observation - This watch means simply being aware of suspicious activity and calling the police to report it in a timely manner. This type of Watch consist of individuals out for their evening walks. It could also consist of shift workers coming home late who agree to ride through the neighborhood before pulling into their driveway or parking place. Your involvement is important, but you are not tied to a schedule.

Window Watch - This watch encompasses those who work out of their home, or elderly who may not get out as much as they would like. Window Watching is just that - looking out your window periodically to make sure everything is as it should be. If you see something or someone suspicious, call the police to check the situation.

Mobile Patrols - This watch is used in larger neighborhoods where driving around is more conducive to checking the neighborhood for suspicious activity.

Neighborhood Watch is a great tool to have in your community. It helps bond a neighborhood together to protect the properties within. Neighbors watch out for neighbors. It also provides a valuable communication link to the Fairfax County Police Department so that the police receive the needed calls for suspicious persons and activity. If you do not call the police, they will not know that situations are occurring. You are extra eyes and ears to help police officers better do their jobs to prevent criminal activity from occurring in your community.



CAC CORNER

The Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard. If you live or work in the Sully District, you are encouraged to attend this meeting. Your voice does make a difference. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!