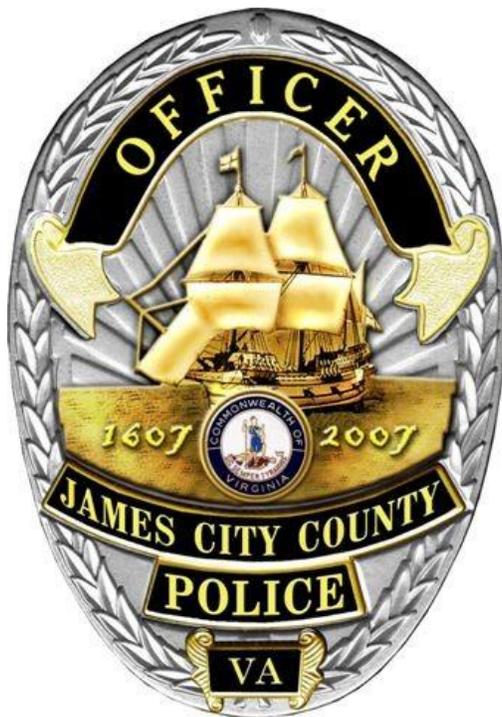


# Community Services Unit



# Crime Prevention Evaluation 2011

## **Community Services Unit Crime Prevention Evaluation 2011**

In 2011 the Community Services Unit continued to work towards meeting its primary goals and objectives including effective implementation of the James City County Police Department's crime prevention, community policing, and school education efforts. The goal of all Community Services programs, as described in the James City County Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual, is to improve community relations in order to realize the positive reinforcement provided by a confident and content community. To that end, the Community Services Unit works with all department personnel to provide services to our citizens that will reduce their fear of crime, and increase their confidence in the Police Department, in order to improve their quality of life. The Community Services Unit serves as a liaison to citizens, the business community, local civic organizations, and other county departments. To meet these diverse goals, the Community Services Unit is engaged in many activities.

Once again the Community Services Unit had an outstanding turnout for their VIN etching program. VIN etching is often seen as a deterrent to thieves because it not only makes it nearly impossible for thieves to profit from selling windows and windshields, but it also makes it more difficult for thieves to find a way to dispose of the vehicle once it has been stolen.

August saw another great turnout for National Night Out. National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. During 2011's National Night Out the Police Department along with numerous communities took part in an array of activities. These activities included: cookouts, ice cream socials, movie night, and neighborhood block parties.

Neighborhood Watch remains a cornerstone of the activities of the Community Services Unit and is one of our highest priorities and continued to be the main focus of Community Services Unit activities in 2011. Members of the Community Services Unit attended 43 Neighborhood Watch meetings this year. Not only did officers provide information on Neighborhood Watch at these meetings but crime prevention topics as well. Four new Neighborhood Watch programs were started this year. The Community Services Unit will continue to work to generate interest in this proactive program to help our citizens protect themselves from crime.

The Business Watch program continued to work cooperatively with the business community in order to organize business response to crime problems in the community. The Community Services Unit attended four Business Watch meetings for the year. This is up from one in 2010. Officers also provided twenty four crime prevention presentations to businesses throughout the year. The topics of these presentations included: shoplifting prevention, counterfeiting, robbery prevention, personal safety, and alarm responses. Business crime prevention education was also provided through two Business Security Surveys that were conducted. The Business Security Survey is an important tool used by the Community Services Unit to educate business owners and employees on topics ranging from burglary and robbery prevention to shoplifting and employee theft.

Successfully marketing our business crime prevention and education programs is a challenge we continue to work to overcome.

Crime prevention education for citizens remains one of the top priorities of the Community Services Unit. Our most popular programs are specifically designed to inform and educate our citizens in the area of crime prevention. These programs include the RAD program, Child ID, and various specialty talks and presentations to specific groups. The RAD program continues to be popular and successful with many more classes offered in 2011. The Child ID program is also very popular and is requested at most community events. This program provides the parents with a child ID, but it also presents an opportunity for officers to educate parents about strategies to prevent lost and missing children. The Community Services Unit is working to improve these programs and the way they are offered in order to maintain their popularity, and increase their availability.

The Community Services Unit continues to provide services to assist the at risk populations in James City County. These programs target the elderly, the very young, and the non-English speaking population. Programs that were offered in 2011 for the elderly include participation in regional groups like TRIAD and SALT which both work to meet the special needs of the elderly. Project Lifesaver also remains one of our most vital programs, especially for our elderly population. Currently we have thirty eight participants registered in the Project Lifesaver program. The Community Services Unit continues to reach out to the non-English speaking population. With the dissolving of the Network for Latino People this has been somewhat problematic. However, we have still distributed crime prevention materials to numerous Hispanic communities.

The School Resource Officers working in the middle and high schools in James City County have provided comprehensive law enforcement services to the populations of those schools in addition to counseling students, teaching a myriad of classes, and serving on multiple committees working to improve the schools. They arrested over 71 juveniles in the schools for offenses including possession of weapons on school property, distribution of narcotics, possession of narcotics, assault and battery, and disorderly conduct. School Resource Officers made over 350 presentations in their schools in 2011. They conducted over 1000 student interventions in 2011. The School Resource Officers also presented programs like Every 30 Minutes and SIDNE, the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, to increase awareness about the consequences of dangerous behaviors like using illegal drugs and drinking and driving. The middle schools SRO's presented the GREAT program to the entire sixth grade class at all three middle schools. Even though gang recruitment and violence has decreased over the last year, the GREAT program offers excellent programs on making right choices and decisions. The GREAT program also continues in the elementary schools.

Community Services Officers were also involved in many other activities in 2011. One program that we took part in was the DEA prescription drug take back program. This program is sponsored by the Federal government with support from police agencies, both local and state throughout the country. The program is designed to reduce the risk of prescription drug diversion and abuse, and increase awareness of this critical public health issue. We were able to collect over 400 pounds of unused medication in 2011. Nationally, in 2011, there was over 188.5 tons of unused prescription medication collected.

James City County Police Department Policy and Procedure #600 details the priorities of the Community Services Unit; those priorities are to provide security surveys to residences and businesses develop and maintain Neighborhood and Business Watch programs, provide crime prevention programs to businesses, and provide crime prevention education to citizens. The Community Services Unit is working to increase the number of security surveys and Neighborhood and Business Watch programs and meetings. Crime prevention education and training for citizens and businesses was the focus of much of the activity in 2011.

Marketing and promoting crime prevention services, especially services like security surveys and watch groups, continues to be a top priority for the Community Services Unit. Because the citizenry has a low fear of crime it makes it increasingly difficult to market much of our crime prevention efforts, such as home and business security surveys. Our goal for the coming year is to continue providing the services that we have, but to also increase these services. The Community Services Unit will accomplish this by continuing our good relationship with neighborhoods and businesses. We will also look to continue our outstanding communication with the citizenry in order to enhance the spirit of community policing.