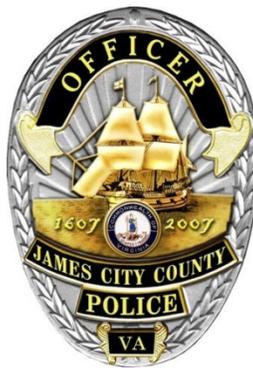




# Police Department Community Services Unit



# Crime Prevention Evaluation 2012

## **Community Services Unit – Crime Prevention Evaluation 2012**

In 2012 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 offered VIN etching to the citizens of the community. 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 2012'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 2012. Members of the Community Services Unit continued to attend Neighborhood Watch meetings this year. Not only did officers provide information on Neighborhood Watch at these meetings but crime prevention topics as well. 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. Officers provided several 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 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 remains a challenge that 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, the Citizen's Police Academy, and various specialty talks and presentations to specific groups. The RAD program continues to be popular and successful with many more classes offered in 2012. 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.

In 2012 the Community Services Unit also provided gun safety classes to the citizens of the County. The class provides a basic safety demonstration on the proper handling of handguns. At the completion of the class citizens are also provided with gun safety locks. This class also meets the requirements for obtaining a concealed weapon permit. We provided this class to over 100 citizens in 2012.

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 2012 for the elderly include participation in regional groups like TRIAD and SALT which both work to meet the special needs of the elderly. The Community Services Unit was asked by several of the County's over 55 communities to come and speak to their residents in 2012. Numerous topics were discussed to include ID theft, fraud, and current crime trends just to name a few. We also provided extensive tours of the Law Enforcement Center to many of these communities. Project Lifesaver also remains one of our most vital programs, especially for our elderly population. Currently we have thirty-two participants registered in the Project Lifesaver program. The Community Services Unit continues to reach out to the non-English speaking population. Even though the Network for Latino Communities organization no longer exists, we still distribute crime prevention materials to numerous Hispanic communities. Much of this distribution takes place at the community events that we attend. We have also been able to provide crime prevention literature through the schools via the school resource officers, as well as the crime prevention officers in the elementary schools. Reaching these communities is still a challenge; however we continue to work to overcome this challenge.

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. Numerous arrests were made in both the middle schools and high schools in 2012. The majority of these arrests were for drug and alcohol offenses, as well as assault and battery and disorderly conduct. Much of the School Resource officers' time is utilized in conducting student interventions. In 2012 the SRO's provided over 1,100 student interventions. Our SRO's also provide presentations to the students and staff at the schools. In 2012, SRO's presented topics covering a range of subjects to include: search and seizure, active shooter, drug and alcohol abuse, to name a few. As part of educating the students on the dangers of drinking and driving we provide the *Every 30 Minutes* program in a local high school every year. In 2012 the program was held at Lafayette High School. The School Resource Officers also utilize the SIDNE, the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, to increase

awareness about the consequences of dangerous behaviors like using illegal drugs and drinking and driving. The SIDNE has become so popular we now have numerous businesses and community groups requesting a demonstration. In 2012 we not only provided SIDNE to all three high schools, but also at events hosted by VDOT, and Virginia Power. Although the middle schools no longer provide the GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program, we were still able to provide middle school students with information on making right choices, as well as proper decision making. We offer the VA Rules program and it has been received very well in the middle schools. The GREAT program also continues in select elementary schools.

Community Services Officers were also involved in many other activities in 2012. 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 300 pounds of unused medication in 2012.

Community Services also sponsored the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Project Lifesaver car show in 2012. The car show raises money for our Project Lifesaver program, as well as collects canned foods for donation to the Salvation Army. The car show made over \$3,000 to go toward equipment for the James City County Project Lifesaver program. There was also over 500 canned food items that was donated to the local Salvation Army. The Community Services Unit also provided Christmas presents to some of the County's disadvantaged youth through the Shop with a Cop program. The Shop with a Cop program is implemented with local businesses.

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 2012.

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 also look to continue our outstanding communication with the citizenry in order to enhance the spirit of community policing.