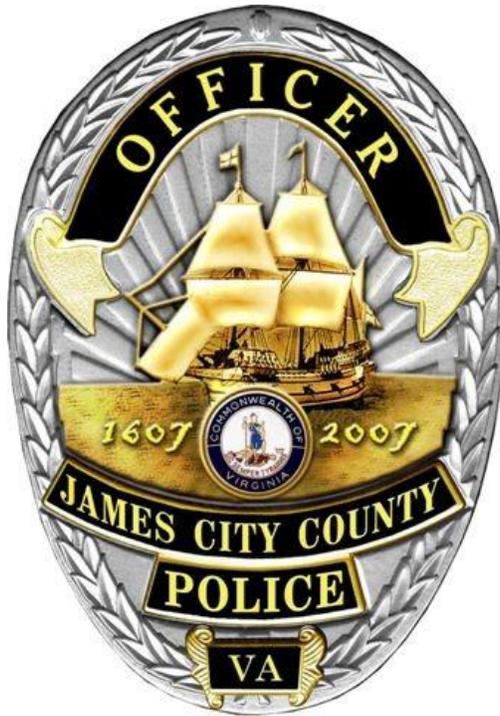


# James City County Police Department



## Crime Prevention Evaluation 2014

## **Crime Prevention Evaluation 2014**

In 2014, 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.

The Community Services Unit offered again this year 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 excellent turnout for National Night Out with a total of 31 participating neighborhoods. 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 2014's National Night Out, the Police Department along with several communities took part in an array of activities. These activities included: cookouts, ice cream socials, movie night, and neighborhood block parties all designed to promote the partnership between the police and the public.

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 2014. Members of the Community Services Unit attended over 20 Neighborhood Watch meetings. Not only did officers provide information on Neighborhood Watch at these meetings but crime prevention topics as well. Some of the crime prevention topics discussed at these meetings was larceny prevention, specifically larcenies from vehicles. As in years past, the County has an increase in larcenies from vehicles in the warmer months; although this is not always the case, as a citizen could be a victim of this at any point throughout the year. With that in mind, CSU actively speaks to citizens about the importance of locking their vehicles and removing valuables from the vehicle. A few of the other topics discussed at these meetings are burglary prevention, identity theft, credit card fraud, and personal safety. CSU also has provided information at Neighborhood Watch meetings on [raidsonline.com](http://raidsonline.com). This is a program that allows citizens to see the types of crime that have

been reported in a particular area of the County. The Community Services Unit will continue to work to generate interest in the Neighborhood Watch program as this is a very proactive program that will help our citizens protect themselves from crime.

CSU has continued to reach out to the community through social media. The department's web-site, internet, and Facebook also provide up to date information on such incidents such as vehicle break-ins, scams, and fraud. The social media also provides citizens with upcoming events such as Child ID, Gun Safety, and Coffee with a Cop just to name a few.

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 attended 16 Business Watch meetings and 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 priority for the department.

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 Rape Aggression Defense (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 several classes offered in 2014. The department also continues to offer Advanced RAD classes along with RAD for kids. The Child ID program is also very popular and is requested at a number of community events throughout the year. 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 2014, CSU conducted 16 Child ID's events and over 1,000 children were able to be fingerprinted. CSU also offers a fairly new program to a real estate agent which provides personal safety information to those showing real estate.

In 2014, 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, as well certificates of attendance. This class also meets the requirements for obtaining a concealed weapon permit. We provided this class to over 162 citizens in 2014. CSU also provides gun safety classes in the elementary schools as a means of educating children about the dangers of firearms.

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 2014 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 60 communities to come and speak to their residents in 2014. Numerous topics were discussed to include ID theft, fraud, and current crime trends just to name a few with 108 presentations and over 2,310 citizens attending. We also provided extensive tours of the Law Enforcement Center to many of these communities and local groups. Project Lifesaver also remains one of our most vital programs, especially for our elderly population. Currently we have thirty four participants registered in the Project Lifesaver program. The Community Services Unit continues to reach out to the non-English speaking population. Even though we no longer have the Network for Latino Communities 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. Overcoming cultural differences and reaching the non-English speaking population is important in order to educate and inform these residents about the various crime prevention programs that are offered.

Community Services Officers were also involved in many other activities in 2014. 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 281 pounds of unused medication in 2014.

Community Services also sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Project Lifesaver car show in 2014. 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 raised \$4,700 to go toward equipment for the James City County Project Lifesaver program. In addition; the car show also collected over 5,800 canned food items that were donated to the local Salvation Army. Also, the Community Services Unit also provided Christmas to at least 16 of the County's disadvantaged youth through the "Shop with a Cop" program. The "Shop with a Cop" program works with local businesses to provide this program. The "Shop with a Cop" program is funded by the annual shred-a-thon event. The Department accepts donations from citizens who are shredding outdated documents. The shred-a-thon is a twofold event; not only are monies being raised, but the event is also assisting against identity theft. By shredding documents that contain your name and other information it makes it difficult for identity thieves to steal your identity. The shred-a-thon alone was able to collect over 1,300 pounds of documents to be destroyed.

The Community Services Unit also provides bicycles to those in the community who may not be able to afford their own. Bicycles that are no longer wanted are donated to the Department and repaired by officers. Once the bicycles are repaired we work with

Social Services in locating persons who may need a bicycle. Many of the bicycles are given to children who, if not for this program would not be able to have a bike. In 2014, a total of 44 bicycles were donated through this program.

The Department's Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) currently has 34 volunteers in the program. Our VIPS are extremely helpful at all of our events. They assist at many of the events to include Child ID's, the annual Car Show, working the front desk at the Law Enforcement Center and fingerprinting the public just to name a few. In 2014, the VIPS also partnered with VDOT and the Adopt-A-Highway program where litter is collected from county highways. The VIPS also continue their overall education as many of them are alumni of the Department's Citizens Police Academy. The VIPS' monthly meetings that are held are meant to provide more insight into the role and duties of our officers. The Department's volunteers exemplify the County's values of Integrity, Collaboration, Excellence, and Stewardship.

In 2014, the Department again offered the Citizen's Forensic Academy. The forensic academy is an opportunity for citizens to gain a better understanding of crime scenes and the collection of evidence. The participants also learn the proper way to take crime scene photographs, lift fingerprints, and collect DNA as well as the law that is associated with crime scenes. The Forensic Academy is open to anyone who has completed the Department's Citizen's Police Academy.

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 continuing to work to increase the number of security surveys and Neighborhood and Business Watch programs. Crime prevention education and training for citizens and businesses was the focus of much of the activity in 2014.

In July of 2014 the department restructured its divisions along with some of its specialized units. As a result the School Resource Officer program became its own specialized unit to become the School Resource Unit (SRU). The new unit continues to work closely with the Community Services Unit in support of the department's crime prevention initiatives. With the restructuring came a full time middle school SRO at Hornsby Middle School where there was only a part time officer in the past. The School Resource Officers (SRO) working in the middle and high schools in James City County continue to provide comprehensive law enforcement services to the students and faculty of these schools. Services include mentoring and counseling students, teaching crime prevention subject matter, and working in collaboration with school administrators to improve the schools educational success. During the 2014 school year the SRO's investigated a number of criminal complaints where arrests were made in both the middle schools and high schools. The majority of these arrests were for drug offenses, assaults, and disorderly conduct. Much of the SRO's time continues to involve student interventions. In 2014, the SROs provided several student interventions. The SRO's

continue to provide presentations to the students and staff at the schools. In 2014, SROs presented information covering a range of subjects to include: the role of police officers in the community, active shooter response, drug and alcohol abuse, social media security, to name a few. Students' misusing social media continues to be a problem that the SRO's deal with regularly. The SROs frequently receive calls from parents, students, and staff at the schools about inappropriate social media postings. Social media postings often involve cyber bullying that has recently resulted in tragic events. During 2014 the SROs received training in the areas of social media problems and cyber bullying to keep them educated as to the latest trends and prevention techniques. The School Resource Unit continues to work tirelessly to intervene in these issues before they become a serious problem. Their job focuses on building relationships with students and they continue to do an excellent job in this area.

As part of educating the students on the dangers of drinking and driving, the SRU conducts the "Every 30 Minute" program in a local high school every year. In the spring of 2015, the program was held at Lafayette High School. The SRU also utilizes the "SIDNE", the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, to increase awareness about the consequences of dangerous behaviors like using illegal drugs and drinking and driving. This year the "SIDNE" was used for the students at Warhill High School. Additionally, two high school SROs participated in the 2014 "*Get It Together Hampton Roads*" program. This program is a regional competition that involves police agencies throughout the Hampton Roads area. This program is an educational effort that teaches the students about the importance of occupant safety in vehicles and the dangers of texting while driving. For the 2014-2015 school year our unit's newest SRO at Lafayette High School helped the school secure 1<sup>st</sup> place in the program.

The SRU continues to participate in the "Virginia Rules" program that provides the SROs with the newest information and tools needed to be successful in their job. The high school SRO's run the Police Explorer program in addition to the regularly assigned duties. This program gives high school students who have shown an interest in law enforcement an opportunity to learn the different aspects of a police officer's duties. The SRO at Toano Middle School continues to facilitate the "Police Science Club" for middle school students who are not quite old enough to become an explorer but have an interest in law enforcement. This program continues to be a success and requested by students and their parents. The program provides middle school students with information on making right choices, as well as proper decision-making, and the role of police officers in their community. Many of the Police Science Club participants go on to become members of the Police Explorers. Another program designed to improve the relationship between the police and youths is the "COPS Camp". The program started in 2013 and due to its success it has grown from one to two camps held during the summer. The camp registrations remain full with waiting lists common. During 2014 the responsibility of the program was moved to the SRU who will take over managing this program with all SROs working together.

The James City County Police Department works with all citizens to ensure that James City County remains a quality community for our citizens. Crime prevention

remains a critical piece of that effort. Marketing and promoting crime prevention services, especially services like security surveys and watch groups, continues to be a top priority for the department. The County enjoys a historically low crime rate and because of that our citizenry has a low fear of crime which makes it increasingly difficult to market much of our crime prevention efforts, such as home and business security surveys and neighborhood and business watch. Our goal for the coming year is to continue to provide the services that we have, but to also increase these services. The Community Services Unit will accomplish this by continuing our excellent relationship with neighborhoods, businesses, and the schools. We will also look to continue and expand our communication with the citizenry in order to enhance the spirit of community policing.