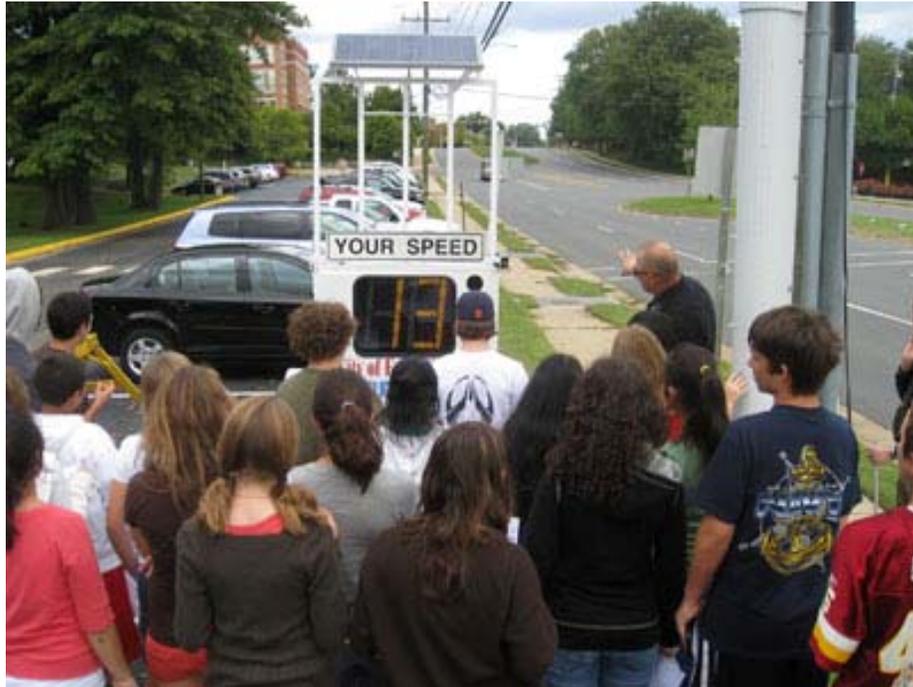


CITY OF FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from the Chief

Wyatt Shields, City Manager
300 Park Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22046-3301

Dear Mr. Shields,

Once again it is my pleasure to present the Falls Church City Police Department Annual Report for Calendar year 2011. Again it is an honor and with great pride, I present our message of successes and accomplishments resulting from the dedicated efforts of the exceptional men and women of the Falls Church City Police Department.

This year, as with the past two years, was a challenge both fiscally and operationally. However, the Department was able to bring the Patrol Division back to full strength and the addition of the City Fire Marshal /Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator which became a reality in January of 2011. In addition, the Traffic Intersection Safety Program was operational early in 2011.

As was with 2011, this calendar year will be very difficult. Limited budget resources along with no salary increases for employees will create a difficult climate to maintain and foster excellence in performance and productivity. But public safety simply cannot be allowed to slip into complacency or discord. And we will not. We will always move forward seeking every opportunity in the areas of training and education, superior performance and productivity and we shall do so in the finest tradition and history of the Falls Church City Police Department.

All members of the Falls Church City Police Department are committed to providing exceptional public safety and service to our citizens, our business community and our visitors and we will not just succeed but we will prevail, regardless of the difficulties. Our attention shall always be focused on the City vision of Falls Church as "A Special Place."

With Abiding Respect,
Colonel Harry W. Reitze, Chief of Police
Falls Church City Police Department

Mission Statement

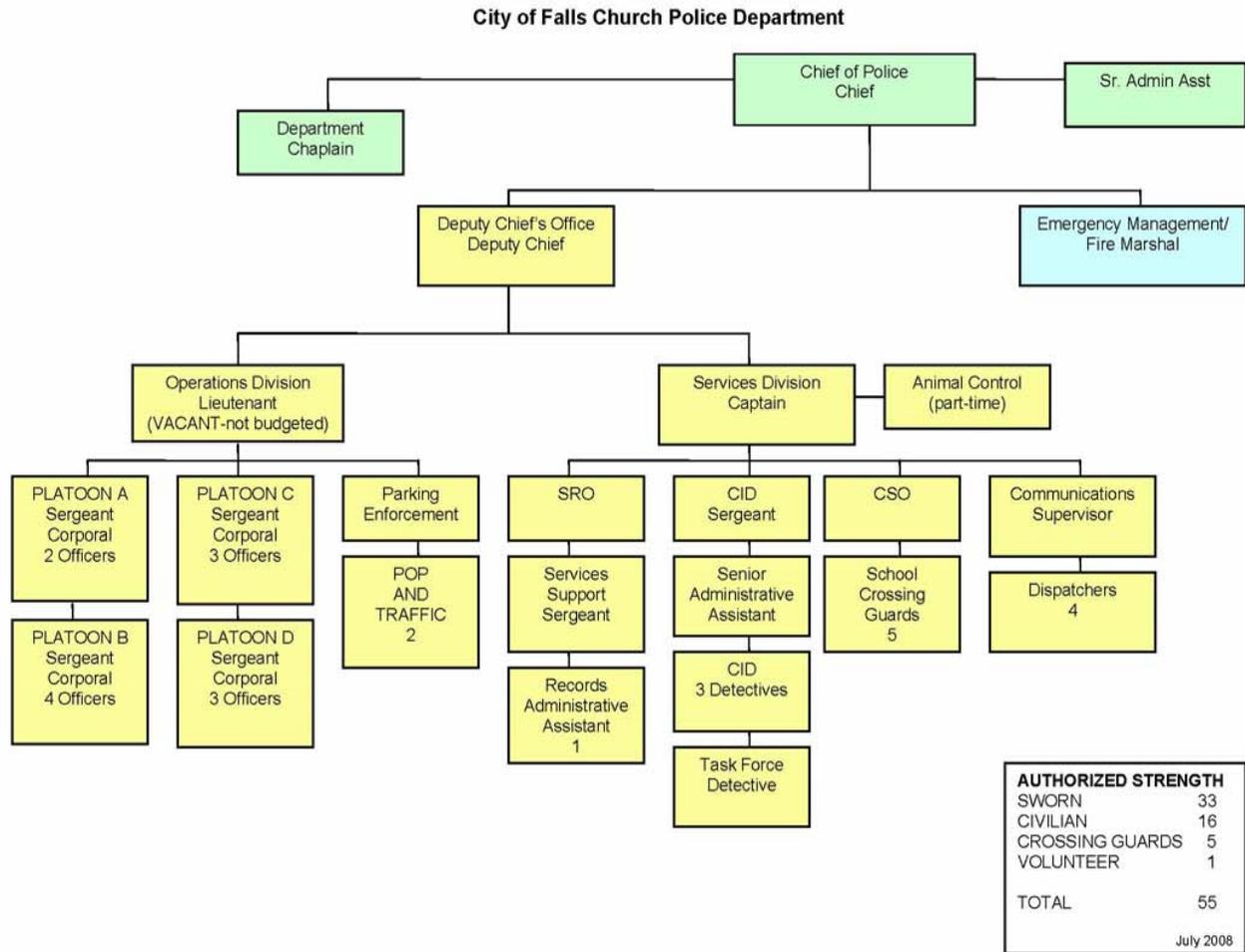
The officers and staff of the Falls Church Police Department are committed to providing a safe environment for all citizens to work and live in by protecting life, property, and preserving peace within the community. The Falls Church Police Department has the responsibility to maintain public safety and order through the enforcement of criminal laws and traffic regulations; development and deployment of effective crime prevention education programs that include children, residents and business owners, proper research and analysis of the service area; and coordination of interagency communications with other organizations in the criminal justice system.

Core values

Commitment
Communication
Teamwork

Innovation
Learning
Empowerment

Organization Chart



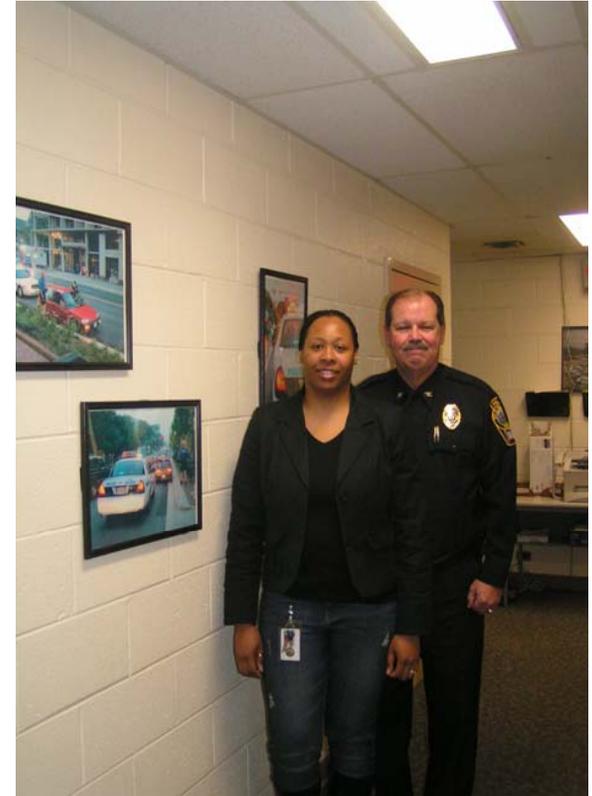
Statistics

	2011	2010	Difference
Part I Offenses - Total Number	283	383	(26.1%)
Part II Offenses - Total Number	2,192	2,634	(16.8%)
Arrests - Total Traffic	7,045	7,006	0.6%
- Total Criminal	1,497	1,316	13.7%
- Total Adult	1,425	1,236	15.4%
- Total Juvenile	72	82	(12.2%)
- Felony	62	88	(29.5%)
- Misdemeanor	1,435	1,228	16.8%
DWI - Total Number	125	72	73.6%
Accidents (reportable) Total	198	239	(17.2%)
- Persons Injured	32	49	(34.7%)
Calls for Service - Complaints	2,476	2,432	1.8%
- Runs	25,007	23,731	5.4%
- Total	27,483	26,163	5%
Parking Tickets - Total	660	723	(8.7%)

Office of the Chief



The primary function of the staff in Office of the Chief is to oversee the entire Department by ensuring officers are actively engaged in the community as well as providing a high level of quality service to its citizens. This office is comprised of the Chief of Police and his Senior Administrative Assistant. The Chief of Police provides direction in all matters within the Department and coordinates with other City Departments and local law enforcement agencies. In turn, his Sr. Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing lead administrative support to include managing the office work flow, the preparation of the Department budget, Department payroll, screen visitors and a host of other duties.



Operations Division

The Operations Patrol Division is the most visible of the Department's Divisions, as it is responsible for responding to calls for service in the City 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents and perform traffic enforcement duties. Of the 21 officers in the Operations Division, one Officer has been assigned to the Traffic unit and one civilian employee is assigned to the Parking Enforcement Officer position. The purpose of the Traffic unit is to dedicate directed patrols for traffic related issues, which is one of the most frequent complaints and concerns in the City. The second most frequent complaint and/or concern in the City is parking related issues. The Parking Enforcement Officer investigates and enforces the City ordinances regarding parking regulations and this year the PEO has proactively sought changes in the ordinance and policies to resolve some of the problematic areas in the residential and commercial areas. The Parking Enforcement Officer position is currently a part time employee but his impact in change and proactive enforcement and problem solving has been essential to the community.

Together, with all Divisions of the Police Department and all Departments within the City government, the Operations Division works collaboratively in responding to reported crime and quality of life issues that affects the City and its citizenry. The Operations Division fulfills this public safety responsibility by embracing the principles of the government service defined in the City's vision to maintain a safe and vibrant community.

Operations Division



In October 2011, veteran Officer Clark Gagnon was hired. Officer Gagnon was a 7 year veteran from the Danville Police Department in Danville, Virginia. Officer Gagnon is assigned to the Operation's Field Training process where they are required to complete a 12-week program under the tutelage of certified Field Training Officers. He successfully completed the training in December of 2011, and will be assigned to Midnight Patrol. Officer Clark Gagnon is a welcome addition to the ranks and we look forward to his immediate contribution to the City's workforce in forwarding our mission.

Results and Activities

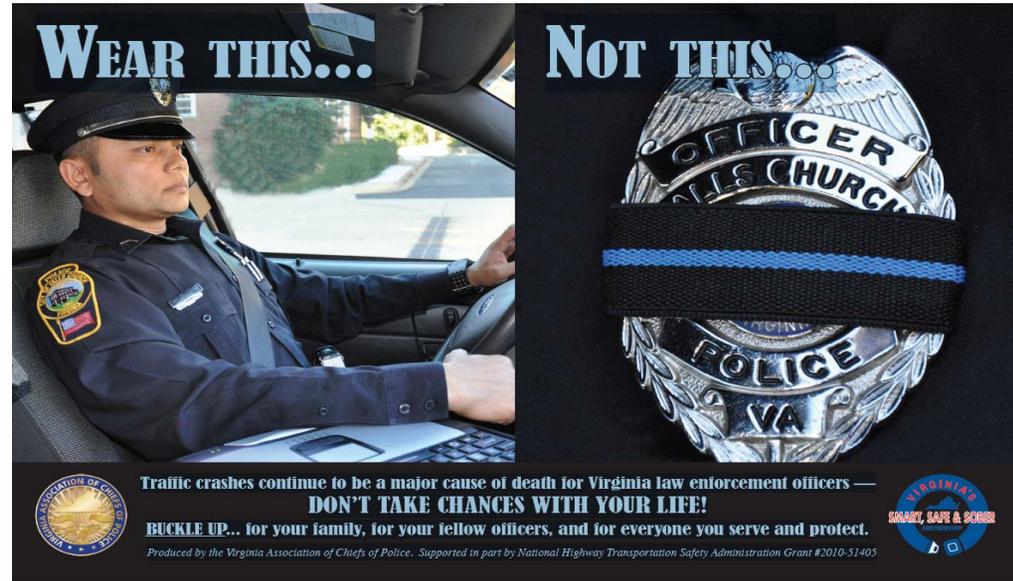
In calendar year 2011, the Operations Division responded to over 25,000 calls for service that did not require a written report and 2473 complaints that did require a written report. The patrol and traffic efforts of the Division produced 7100 tickets for traffic violations, made 1500 arrests, responded to and investigated 198 traffic accidents, 616 alarms and issued 660 tickets for parking violations. In addition, the Division provided security, public assistance and crowd control during the Fall Festival and (4) citizen/community sponsored events to include: First Watch Night, The Falls Church Education Foundation 5K Run, The Friends of the WOJD Trail 5K Run, and The Senior All-Nighter Party for the George Mason High School graduating class of 2011.



WOJD Trail 5K Detail

Regional Traffic Campaigns

The Operations Division participates in five regional traffic campaigns directed at reducing aggressive driving, speeding, and school zone violations: Washington Regional Alcohol Program, Click it or Ticket, Smooth Operator, ASAP's Mothers Against Drunk Driving Campaign and Operation Extra Eyes. In the Click it or Ticket campaign Officer Metin Cay was recognized for his efforts and this is his fourth year winning this prestigious award. In May 2011, MPO Alan Freed, Officer Rachel Henderson, Officer Sharee Janda and Officer Sy Symoun were honored with the MADD ASAP Awards for their efforts in the fight against drunk driving. In July 2011, Master Police Officer Rick Judd participated in Operations Extra Eyes second annual event which is a regional enforcement effort lead by the Town of Vienna Police to focus on aggressive and drunk driving.



Ofc. Jiwan Chhetri

Weather Emergency



Cpl. Cuomo, Officer Cay and Fire Marshal Polera

This year was not without its challenges as the region experienced record rainfall and flash flooding causing significant damage and danger to the area on September 8, 2011, which paralyzed much of the rush hour traffic Metropolitan Washington area. Yet the Police Department along with many other City Departments answered the call of duty by directing traffic assisting stranded motorists, checking on high rising creek beds abutting residents' homes and numerous other emergency calls for service.

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

Towing Project

During the year 2011, Patrol Officers, Dispatchers, the Towing Advisory Board and Economic Development have taken a focused look at the towing practices, ordinances and policies of the City. With assistance and input from the community property managers of the major shopping centers the City ordinance was changed to regulate and better define the expectations of customers and tow companies. Signage regulations were set in place and additional evidence for each tow was submitted and accepted into the ordinance in an attempt to regulate tow companies and to ensure property managers would be accountable for each tow. Overall in 2011, 549 tows were tracked by Falls Church's Emergency Communication Center and more specifically Dispatcher Carly Lumsden and Master Police Officer Alan Freed. Of the 549 tows, MPO Freed conducted 5 investigations representing various citizens' complainants.

There is still a lot of work to be done in this venue and the Falls Church Police Department is committed to continuing to evolve with the community's needs and assist in resolving the pressures of limited and restricted parking.

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

ABC Initiative

Patrol Officers Sy Symoun, Sharee Janda and Rachel Henderson have continued to shepard the community initiative that concentrates patrol efforts on alcohol related offenses throughout the City. This initiative was started in mid year 2010 and has continued through 2011. The ABC team scans problem areas, analyzing data, responding to issues and assessing the community's needs as it related to problems which arise from alcohol related incidents. In the year 2011, the officers made 186 arrests that were alcohol related.



Ofc. Janda, Ofc. Symoun, Ofc. Henderson and MPO Freed Awardees at the MADD ASAP Awards Ceremony

Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives

In 2011, Sergeant Joseph Carter spearheaded the Rape Aggressive Defense (R.A.D.) program. This year marks the 10th annual set of classes (2 each year) hosted by the Falls Church City Police. The participation level of this class has been at full capacity each and every time it has been offered. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. The class had a compliment of Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including: the George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police Department and Prince William County Sherriff's Office.



The enthusiasm and camaraderie built from this class is contagious, but the value is in the reviews and testimonials from participants that speak of how the techniques and confidence learned in this class have actually saved their lives. A true testimony to the camaraderie of this class is the commitment and dedication of the community outreach volunteer Kathleen Dempsey. Ms. Dempsey has been partnered with the Falls Church Police Department for over 10 years and faithfully organizes, attends and video tapes every class. She brings a sense of purpose and immediate credibility to the officers and the mission of R.A.D. and her service to this community is invaluable.

Approximately 60 participants were certified in R.A.D. in 2011. Four officers, Sergeant Joe Carter, Officer Sharee Janda, Officer Sy Symoun, and Corporal Justin Cuomo are all certified R.A.D. instructors for the City of Falls Church.



Operations Community Policing, Projects & Initiatives



Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell signed a bill in March 2011 that made it illegal to possess, sell or distribute synthetic cannabinoids (marijuana). The Falls Church Police had received complaints about a local business selling the substance along with some other illegal drug paraphernalia. On June 28, 2011 at 4:30 P.M. officers from FCPD in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control conducted a search warrant at 1110 West Broad Street, The Arabica Tobacco Shop. Numerous packets of suspected synthetic cannabinoids were found and subsequently seized for evidentiary purposes. The seizure included 1,700 packets of synthetic marijuana from the business and numerous smoking devices considered illegal drug paraphernalia. The suspected synthetic cannabinoids known as K2 or "spice" at the Arabica Tobacco Shop was found on display shelves near the cash register and numerous other boxes of the substance were found in the inventory area of the store. K2 is a mixture of herbs and spices that is generally sprayed with a synthetic chemical that's similar to THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. DEA experts report that the drug's effects are similar to marijuana, and can include increased heart rate, paranoia, panic attacks and giddiness.

Services Division



Criminal
Investigations
Unit



Emergency
Communications
Unit



Supervisor of ECU



Community
Services Officer



School Resource
Officer



Senior Administrative
Assistant



Administrative
Sergeant

Records
Unit



Criminal Investigations Unit

In calendar year 2011, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 305 cases, down from 326 in 2010. Part I offenses, which include serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts, were down by 25% compared to 2010. While there was a reduction in all categories of Part I offenses, the most significant decrease was in Larcenies and Motor Vehicle Thefts. Larcenies were down 27%, from 270 in 2010 to 197 in 2011. Motor Vehicle Thefts dropped from 21 in 2010 to 14 in 2011, a 33% decrease. While Fraud cases, overall, remained fairly constant, Identity Theft was up 7%. The overall case closure rate for the unit increased to 80% for 2011 as compared to 76% in 2010. The City of Falls Church Police Department's closure rate continues to be higher than the national and regional averages, which range from 68% to 70%.



Here are some highlights of just a few of the cases handled by the City of Falls Church Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in 2011:

- On February 11, 2011 officers responded to the 1000 block of Lincoln Ave. for a Residential Burglary. Sometime between 11:00 am and 12:30 pm someone broke into the home and stole a purse, a laptop computer and other home electronics. Detectives learned that credit cards that were in the purse were used at the Sunoco gas station in the City and at a couple other stores in the area. Numerous interviews were conducted and video was collected from the locations where it was available. Eventually, a suspect was identified and discovered to be incarcerated at the Prince William County Adult Detention Center on unrelated charges. The suspect confessed to the burglary and offered to pay restitution. Warrants were obtained and the suspect was charged with Burglary.

Criminal Investigations Unit Highlights

- On June 18, 2011, a parent called to report that their daughter said she had been touched inappropriately while spending the night at a friend's house. After considerable investigation and numerous interviews two other children reported similar incidents involving the same suspect. The Commonwealth's Attorney's Office was consulted and warrants were obtained charging various levels of Aggravated Sexual Battery.

The detective investigating this case submitted the clothing worn by the victims to the Division of Forensic Sciences laboratory for DNA analysis. The analysis utilized a method commonly referred to as Trace or Touch DNA. Trace DNA requires that the sample be collected from a very small and specific location. As a result, the DNA analysis in this case not only identified the suspect (or the contributor of skin cells), but because the sample was location specific, it also corroborated the statements given by the victims.

The suspect was convicted in this case and is currently awaiting sentencing. This case was very involved and emotionally charged.



Detective Sonya Richardson

Criminal Investigations Unit Highlights

- On August 11th, the Falls Church Police Department assisted the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force, Fairfax County Police, and the FBI in conducting a raid involving gambling at the Eden Center. Search warrants were served at 13 businesses. Nineteen arrests were made incidental to the search warrants for offenses observed during the raid. Those arrests were for on-site gambling, fireworks, and ABC violations.

As a result of the search warrants, 70 gambling machines and over \$1 million in cash was seized from the 13 businesses.



Detective Sergeant Lancaster at the Eden Center

Community Services Officer



Crossing Guards

Another member of the Services Division is the Community Services Officer. The Community Services Officer is responsible for providing home and business security surveys, coordinates the School's Crossing Guards, provides educational programs for the City's elementary schools, as well as the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The Community Services Officer also reviews blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and makes recommendations based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The C.S.O. also coordinates National and State Traffic Safety campaigns and assists in managing Traffic Safety Grant programs. Additionally, the C.S.O. provides information for the Weekly Crime report and other press releases.

During 2011 the Community Services Officer:

- Conducted numerous Police Department tours to various groups and organizations.
- Coordinated a collection point for the National Drug Take Back Initiative which is sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Coordinated numerous traffic safety campaigns including Click It Or Ticket (May) and Checkpoint Strikeforce (Year round impaired driving enforcement).
- Continued the Bicycle & Pedestrian Awareness Week in conjunction with the department's Traffic unit targeting enforcement in shared use traffic areas.
- Participated in the Arlington/Falls Church TRIAD which is an organization that builds partnerships between senior citizens and law enforcement to enhance safety and improve quality of life.



CSO Brooks at Drug Take Back

School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer is the liaison between the Falls Church City Police Department and George Mason High School/Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO is responsible for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention on the campuses of George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO also provides student, staff and parent education on such topics as Drugs and Alcohol, Driver Safety, Internet Safety, Gangs, and Crime Prevention. The SRO and the School Division Safety and Security Supervisor work together fingerprinting, photographing and issuing employee badges to all Falls Church City Public School employees, as well as maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system.

Some of the other classes and activities organized and presented by our School Resource Officer are:

Classes presented at the High School level:

- 8th Grade Physical Science - Velocity & Speed
- Forensic Chemistry - Effects of drugs and alcohol
- US Government - 4th & 5th Amendments
- Driver's Education (10th Grade)
- Internet Safety (8th Grade)
- Drugs & Alcohol (9th Grade)



Classes presented at the Middle School level:

- Risky Behavior/Gangs/Crime (7th Grade)
- Character Education

All grades, meet with each classroom once during the school year

Animal Control Division



The Animal Control Unit is responsible for the investigation of all animal related complaints. These complaints include, but are not limited to: Animal Bites, Animal Cruelty Complaints, Injured Animal (Companion Animals and Wildlife) Complaints, Animal Noise Complaints, Animal Quarantines, Impoundment of Companion and Wild Animals, Dog Licensing and any other call for service concerning animals. The Animal Control Division receives an average of 25-35 phone calls from citizens per day asking for advice or assistance. The Animal Control Officer is also a state certified Police Emergency Communications Technician and a trained Parking Enforcement Officer.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 198 calls related to companion animals and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and disposition of 39 animals. Also, 13 animals were quarantined after being involved in bite incidents with residents.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 96 wildlife complaints and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and disposition of 51 wild animals including 4 animals that tested positive for rabies.

Some other notable statistics:

- Calls for Service 349
- Assist other Officers 62
- Assist Police Emergency Communications 71
- Assisted other Jurisdictions 1
- Animal Cruelty Complaints 4
- Animal Quarantines 18
- Animal Bite Complaints 13
- Rabies Exposures 6
- Wildlife Complaints 76
- Written Complaints 31
- Run Slips 361
- Contacted while off duty at home by PD 64

Records Unit



The Falls Church Police Department Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the organization. Even though we have a comprehensive computerized Records Management System, the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity handled by the department. They record and reroute every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrant. They scan impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report. They issue parking and drive through permits to our City residents. They create and distribute copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies.

Training



Training is a critical function of the Services Division. It keeps the Department personnel current with changing trends and technology. Providing quality training to all personnel results in a more professional and capable work force.



During 2011, Police Department personnel received over 2,658 hours of training. This training was in the form of Mandatory In-service Retraining, Firearms training, Legal updates, First Aid, CPR, and Roll Call training that covers a vast array of topic and subject areas.



Additionally, two officers successfully completed Basic Academy Training, spanning 20 weeks (800 hours).

Emergency Communications



The function of the Police Emergency Communications Unit is to serve as the "Lifeline" between the citizens and the Police Department. Oftentimes, the Emergency Communications Unit member is the first contact that citizens will have with the City Government.

It is the main control center for the ongoing operations of the Department. The Emergency Communications Unit provides the patrol units with access to local, state and federal criminal justice information systems.

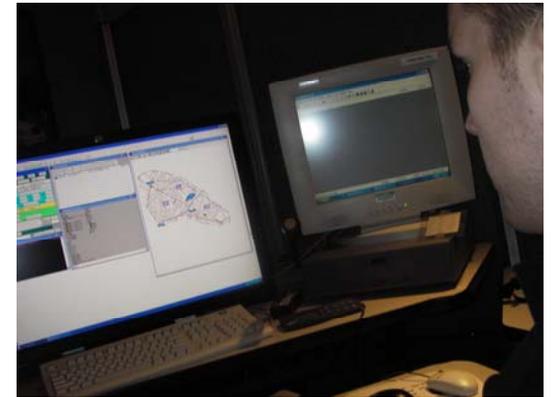


The primary function is to provide the uniformed patrol units with accurate information in order to respond to the needs of the citizens in a safe and in an expeditious manner. The Police Emergency Communications Unit is also responsible for the entry of the Department's wanted and stolen entries into the Virginia Criminal Information Network State and National Crime Information Central databases. The accuracy with which these entries are made assists in determining how quickly wanted persons are apprehended and stolen items are recovered.



Emergency Communications

Not only does The Police Emergency Communications Unit handle calls for the Police Department, but it's members are also responsible for monitoring and keeping track of The Falls Church Sheriff's Department Deputies and obtaining information from various databases for them.



The Police Emergency Communications Unit is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It serves as the City Hall's gatekeeper during non-business hours.

Other responsibilities include but are not limited to monitoring various cameras and alarms around City Hall and other City properties such as the schools.



In 2011, the Police Emergency Communications Unit processed 27,483 calls for service (This does not include the thousands of informational calls that required no police action.).



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Beginning in February 2011, Fire Marshal services that were previously contracted was integrated with the position of the Emergency Manager. This section is comprised of one (1) Captain.

Fire Marshal

The function of the Fire Marshal includes responsibilities as the City's Fire Code Official to enforce the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code, thereby reducing the risk of fire. Additionally, the Fire Marshal is the lead investigator into the origin and cause of fires, explosions and environmental crimes including hazardous material releases. The Fire Marshal serves on the City Health and Safety Inspection Taskforce.



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Accomplishments:

- Meets and exceeds all state regulatory requirements for the recognition of the City's Fire Marshal.
- Prepared for Council the City of Falls Church Fire Prevention Code for adoption.
- Established procedures working in conjunction with the City's Planning Office to perform plans review for construction projects to identify design deficiencies that could impede the effectiveness of emergency operations.
- Partnered with Dept. of Human Services to establish inspection procedures for home day care providers.
- Maintains a strong working partnership with the Building Official to formulate team inspections for identified unsafe structures.
- Approved as user for the A.T.F.'s Bomb Arson Tracking reporting system.
- Serves as a participant with the Northern Virginia and COG Regional Fire Marshal groups.
- Placed in-service a Fire Investigation and Emergency Management Response Vehicle this also serves as a Police Command function.

Specific Upcoming Objectives:

- Completion of all inspectable commercial structures in the City to provide an accurate indication of their occupancy use group under the Fire Prevention Code. This will provide for an accurate indication of the number of required annual inspection permits thereby showing estimated fiscal revenue.
- Continue to evaluate all buildings with Fire Protection Systems to determine the number of annual inspections required to assure all suppression and notification systems are being maintained by approved third party contractors.



Fire Marshal & Emergency Management

Emergency Management

The function of the Emergency Manager is to manage hazards in an effort to avoid or lessen the impact of disasters resulting from those hazards. Emergency Management is divided into four phases: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery.

Accomplishments:

- Active Participant with the Northern Virginia Emergency Managers and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.
- Doubled the number of subscribers on the Roam Secure Alert Network (RSAN) system.
- City participated in Statewide Tornado Drill.
- Completed the adoption of the 2012 Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) as required. This plan identifies assignments of all City agencies. It is reviewed annually and promulgated by the Council every four years.
- Completed the Local Capability Assessment for Readiness (LCAR).
- Completed 2011 NIMSCAST Survey.

- Trained all City Personnel in NIMS 100 & 700 and established benchmarks for additional training for key personnel. The importance of NIMS compliance has a direct relationship for emergency preparedness as well as future Federal and State funding. Systems to determine training requirements for every city department will be established as well as record keeping certifying that training.
- Coordinated NIMS 300 Training to key personnel
- Completed the adoption of the Regional Hazardous Materials Mitigation Plan.

Specific Upcoming Objectives:

- The Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) will be updated resulting from the changes in government structure and staff positions.
- Develop and execute an emergency preparedness exercise (tabletop) with multiple city agencies.

Volunteer Fire Department

The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD). During the calendar year 2010, the volunteers participated in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. The FCVFD is involved in training and other activities that its members have completed in order to continue to provide a high level of professional emergency response and public education services.



A significant majority of the funding for the Volunteer Fire Department under the City of Falls Church budget is used for the provision and maintenance of firefighting equipment and facilities, specifically:

- Apparatus Maintenance
- Building Maintenance
- Vehicle Equipment
- Building Utilities
- Vehicle Fuels
- Telecommunications

The equipment and facilities are utilized by all fire department personnel including both Falls Church volunteers and Arlington County career firefighters.

Photo Gallery



Crossing Guards with Students



Firearms Training



More Training



CSO Brooks, major Gavin, Ofc. Cay

