

## *Portsmouth Sheriff's Office*

# The Community Advisor

**January**

**2010**

## **Happy New Year**

Sheriff Bill Watson and his staff of the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office would like to wish everyone a happy, joyful and prosperous New Year.

The Sheriff's Office has offered its Safe Ride Home service for the fourth year and we can report that we have given 66 individuals a ride home. The demand for this service has become larger every year and we are sorry to say, that we were so busy in the last couple of hours, that we missed a few rides. We had a lot of calls where 4 to 8 people wanted a ride of course with several different destinations and they tied up a few of our vehicles at the time. Because of this we could not respond on time and missed some callers. I hope those folks made it home alright and called a cab. Next New Year's Eve we will have three vans on the road to accommodate everyone and the large groups. Of course we also had some crank calls to tie a vehicle or two up, for some time. Someone called for a ride and when we got there nobody was there, or we were told they just wanted to know if we really would show up. However, we have tried to make our community a little safer and hope we have prevented accidents. All the personnel who provided those rides were volunteers and will not receive any compensation. We did use departmental vehicles and some folks may say this is a waste of taxpayers money. Please consider this, with those rides we may have been able to save some lives, avoided injuries, possible trials, and the incarceration of some individuals, all which would cost taxpayers dollars. I believe with this service we may have not only prevented a possible tragedy for a family, but also saved money in the long run and kept Portsmouth roads a little safer. Sheriff Watson is a strong advocate against drunk driving and we will offer this every year. If you have any questions, have some suggestions, or feed back, please call Lt. K. Johnson at 393-5461.

Thank you and be safe.





## State Accreditation

The Portsmouth Sheriff's Office is working toward its State Accreditation. This is an extremely lengthy process, as we have to check into every aspect of daily operations and policies of our agency. The Commonwealth of Virginia is a pretty densely populated State, with a lot of Counties, Cities, and townships, but only has 79 accredited Law Enforcement agencies, this includes Police and Sheriff. Reasons for this are the high standards a department must meet to qualify for the accreditation through the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission (VLEPSC). The Virginia Sheriff's Association, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) make up the VLEPSC. Executive board members consisting of active Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police establish professional standards and administer the accreditation process by which Virginia agencies can be systematically measured, evaluated, and updated. DCJS manages the day-to-day operations for the Commission. Every agency seeking accreditation has to meet 187 standards, which are divided into four general subject areas: Administration, Operations, Personnel, and Training. Every four years the departments have to re-qualify, as the accreditation is the ongoing process whereby agencies evaluate policy and procedure against established criteria, and have complied with that criteria verified by an independent and authoritative body. The criteria, or standards, are policy development guidelines that represent a level of quality service delivery. The true indicator of compliance, however, lies with an evaluation by trained, independent professional peers from other high standard agencies. The establishment of meaningful and professional standards and an evaluation for compliance to those standards are, therefore, the two fundamentals of an accreditation program.

### **What will State Accreditation do for the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office and the City we serve?**

#### **TO THE COMMUNITY:**

Accreditation increases the agency's ability to serve the community better through a more effective and efficient delivery of the law enforcement/correctional services it provides. Accreditation enhances community understanding of the agency and its role in the community as well as its goals and objectives. Citizen confidence in the policies and practices of the agency is increased. Accreditation, in conjunction with the philosophy of community service, commits the agency to a broad range of programs (such as crime prevention) that directly benefit the public. Accreditation creates a forum in which the agency and citizens work together to prevent crime, and introduce programs, which will benefit our community. This partnership will help citizens to understand the challenges that confront deputies. The Sheriff's Office will, in turn, receive clear direction from the community about its expectations. Thus, a common set of goals and objectives will be arrived at and implemented.

## **TO THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY:**

Increases cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and other branches of the criminal justice system. The accreditation process requires an in-depth review of every aspect of the agency's organization, management, operations, and administration to include:

- establishment of agency goals and objectives with provisions for periodic updating;
- re-evaluation of whether agency resources are being used in accord with agency goals, objectives, and mission;
- re-evaluation of agency policies and procedures, especially as documented in the agency's written directive system;
- correction of internal deficiencies and inefficiencies before they become public problems;
- the opportunity to re-organize without the appearance of personal attacks.

The accreditation standards provide norms against which agency performance can be measured and monitored over time. Accreditation provides the agency with a continuous flow of Commission distributed information about exemplary policies, procedures, and projects. Accreditation provides objective measures to justify decisions related to budget requests and personnel policies. Accreditation serves as a yardstick to measure the effectiveness of the agency's programs and services. The services provided are defined, and uniformity of service is assured. Accreditation streamlines operations, providing more consistency and more effective deployment of agency manpower.

## **TO THE OFFICERS:**

Accreditation requires that agency policies and procedures are in written form and are available to all agency personnel at all times. Accreditation assures employees that every aspect of the agency's personnel system is in accord with professional standards, and that the system is both fair and equitable. The agency is compelled to operate within specific guidelines. It is accountable to the Commission. The agency must stay in compliance with the standards set forth by the Commission in order to retain its accreditation. The morale of the agency is enhanced by increasing the employees' confidence in the effectiveness and efficiency of their own agency. Operations become more streamlined and consistent. Accreditation policies address officer safety issues and provide for adequate training and equipment of the officers. Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. Employees will take pride in their agency, knowing that it represents the very best in law enforcement.

This process may take a year or more, but with the assistance of some sister agencies and a lot of hard work, we will be able to meet all the criteria.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, or visit the Department of Criminal Justice Services website ([www.dcjs.virginia.gov](http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov)) for answers.





## Court Security

In a recent *Virginian Pilot* article Sheriff Watson was quoted as saying his Office would no longer provide Courthouse Security. The story didn't contain all the information which was given to the media. Sheriff Watson is very well aware of his duties and the Virginia State Codes. He takes his responsibilities seriously, but faced with severe budget cuts, as other agencies have to deal with them as well, he had to make a decision as to how and where to cut. His intentions were never to give up Courthouse Security. The Code of Virginia clearly states that it is the responsibility of the Sheriff to do so, but it doesn't say how he is supposed to do it!

Years ago when there were no scanners Deputies showed a presence throughout the Courthouse, in the court room and supplied security for the public. Nowhere does it say in the Code of Virginia, that Deputies have to man scanners. Everyone who is familiar with our Court complex knows we have three entrances, which are manned by three Deputies. The Sheriff had asked the City for money to help offset his State imposed budget cuts, as the other constitutional officers did as well. The City helped us with \$190,000 and we only lost 11 positions, instead of 21 employees. Our department is grateful for this, but the Sheriff still has a shortage of personnel and was faced with the rearranging divisions, moving personnel to assure proper service and staffing. The State Compensation Board only allows so many bailiff's per court room. Civil Court is not assigned a Deputy per the Compensation Board, however, in the City of Portsmouth, we have Deputies in every court room and also have runners for the court clerks. Sheriff Watson has met with all our honorable judges to discuss this issue and in this meeting it was agreed that he would keep Deputies on the scanners, however, pull one Deputy out of Civil Court and the runners, which the State Compensation Board has not made allowance for. This will free up three Deputies to secure the courthouse entrances on the scanners. The Deputies in the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Traffic Division have been reassigned to Court Security and some Deputies will report to their new assignment in Corrections. This will help the Sheriff's Office to maintain the responsibilities our Office carries. As you can see, it was never the Sheriff's intention to abandon Court Security, he only needed to find a way to best deal with the rearranging of personnel without compromising safety in any division and with the personnel he has at hand. Sheriff Watson is trying to keep all the services and programs we have available to our citizens as well as the inmate work crews the public and the City of Portsmouth benefit from, with savings to the City in labor. If anyone has any questions is reference to this article please give Lt. Karin Johnson a call and she will be happy to speak to you on this or any other matter.



## Free Firewood



Throughout the year the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office work crews are busy cutting down trees and working on land around our City. We collect the wood or asked contractors to donate wood to us and the crews will pick it up. This affords the Sheriff to offer **FREE FIREWOOD** to help offset heating costs to the citizens of Portsmouth, who are on a fixed income. Such as the elderly, disabled, or folks, who are facing hard times due to loss of income. This wood is split to fit in wood burning stoves, fireplaces, and will be delivered to your home. If you would like to receive firewood from us or know someone who is in need of it, please call our Work Center at 393-5280 and speak to Capt. Ashberry or Sgt. Rowland.



## Deputy of the Year 2009

The Rotary Club of Portsmouth honors annually selected police officers, firefighters, deputy sheriffs, paramedics, and correctional officers of our City. These officers are awarded a plaque and a US Savings Bond at a luncheon. In December, Captain Randy Ashberry, who is in charge of the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office Work Center, was recognized as Deputy of the Year for this honor. Captain Ashberry has 7 Deputies and 89 Work Center inmates under his supervision. He meets and completes all assignments as possible by incorporating those in the already busy schedule of the Work Center. He and his crews have saved the City of Portsmouth and the taxpayers, over 2 million dollars this year alone. He exemplifies what the Sheriff's Office is trying to do, help the Citizens of Portsmouth and save taxpayers dollars. Captain Ashberry is a fine example of a dedicated public servant and Sheriff Watson is very proud of him as well as of the rest of his employees.



## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

In our first year of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, the PSO Team Pink Justice, was able to collect \$4,050.05. We would like to thank everybody, who donated and helped the PSO team to raise this considerable amount of money for the American Cancer Society. The Sentara Mobile Mammography Unit was invited by the PSO to come twice to the Wal-Mart Store on Frederick Boulevard last October and was able to screen 36 women for Breast Cancer. Our efforts will help some women in dire need of support, or medical assistance, through the American Cancer Society.



## Celebrating Retirement

We said “Good Bye” to two longtime members of the Sheriff’s Office. Captain Bill Facenda and Deputy Jimmy Collins both have served the department and the community for a combined 49 years. Captain Facenda served prior with the PPD and completed his carrier with the PSO for 17 1/2 years. Deputy Collins has been with the agency for over 30 years. Their knowledge, dedication, expertise, and their willingness to share their advice and help will be missed by all who know them, and benefited of working with those great individuals.

**We all wish them the best for your future and thank them for their service !**



## Operation H.E.A.T.

H.E.A.T. is an acronym for Help Eliminate Auto Theft, which is a cooperative effort of the Virginia State Police, Department of Motor Vehicles, and local law enforcement agencies throughout the Commonwealth. By hosting and participating in H.E.A.T. events, local law enforcement agencies help educate citizens on how to prevent theft of vehicles and their parts, a crime that costs Virginians millions of dollars each year. The PSO, PPD and the PFD hosted a VIN Etching event back in August 09, at the Wal-Mart parking lot on Frederick Boulevard.

For this occasion and a few other the Portsmouth Sheriff’s Office won First Place in the 2008-2009 HEAT WAVE AWARD in our category 5 Division. This Award was presented to Sheriff Watson at a ceremony at the Norfolk Marriott Hotel. Thanks to the hard work of the personnel in the Community Service Unit, we were able to get it again.



# In Memory of Sgt. Darryl Johnson

Sgt. Darryl Johnson was a Deputy of the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office and he served the City of Portsmouth for 30 years. He saw three Sheriff's elected into this agency and supported them. Darryl worked as an assistant Commander of the PSO Criminal Apprehension Unit, as a Watch Commander in the Jail, as Commander of the Emergency Response Team, and was an instructor in defensive tactics. His last duty station was Court Security. Sgt. Johnson was an avid runner and supported the Special Olympics Torch Run yearly, as well as an advocate for Making

Strides Against Breast Cancer. His wife was diagnosed with breast cancer and just five months ago, she had lost her mother to this disease. Darryl passed away Christmas Eve of colon cancer. He has touched so many lives in our department and we have lost a good friend, not just a co-worker. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him. One of the deputies he worked with and ran with, has signed up with the American Cancer Society to run in the New York Marathon in his memory. The marathon will be in November of this year and she has set a goal of raising \$3,500 for the American Cancer Society. Deputy McCormick has written a letter I like to share with you.

Dear Friends,

This year I have signed up to cross two finish lines, one at the race and one in the fight against cancer. Want to help me accomplish my goal and save lives? The American Cancer Society DetermiNation endurance event program is a nation of athletes determined to end cancer. This powerful and inspiring movement saves lives by enabling athletes like me to dedicate our training and participation in marathons, triathlons, cycling races, and other endurance events to a lifesaving effort to fight a disease that has already taken too many lives, including Darryl Johnson's, one of our own. Darryl himself was a keen runner, athletic, and enjoyed it. He was one of my running buddies and ran with me frequently. I know that there are a lot of great causes out there, but the DetermiNation program speaks to me, because funds raised enable the American Cancer Society to help create a world with less cancer and more birthdays by helping people stay well and get well, by finding cures, and fighting back today. With your help, we can save lives.

To support me in my efforts, please visit my personal page and make a donation of whatever amount you can spare. They say that every donation makes a difference, and it really is true. I know that times are tighter than normal for many of us, but if you can spare even \$5 or \$10, it truly will help someone maybe in our own neighborhood with cancer.

When you make a donation.....

- More people in our community can stay well by getting the information and tools they need to help prevent cancer or finding it early.
- More people with cancer will have a place to turn around the clock to help them through every step of their cancer journey whether it's a free ride to treatment, a place to stay, or just talking to someone who has "been there".





- More of us will have access to lifesaving cancer screenings and treatments we need.
- More cures will be found to end this disease.

Each of us has our own reason for caring about the fight against cancer. Whatever your reasons, I hope you'll choose to make a difference by making an online donation to support my effort, or contact me with a cash donation.

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, 11 million cancer survivors are celebrating another birthday, or Holiday this year!

Together we truly are saving lives and creating a world with more birthdays. I'm so grateful to have great people like you in my life who care about cancer!

My mantra/slogan is "Doing it for Darryl".

The website: [http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/DetermiNation/DNFY10National?px=13694901&pg=personal&fr\\_id=26685](http://main.acevents.org/site/TR/DetermiNation/DNFY10National?px=13694901&pg=personal&fr_id=26685)

If you would like to a donation and rather do it by check, or cash, please call and leave a message for me at 391-3203. Checks should be payable to the American Cancer Society and can be mailed to the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office, ATTN: Dep. Colleen McCormick, 701 Crawford Street, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704.

Sincerely,

Dep. Colleen McCormick

## WHY ??????

In today's uncertain economy most people are tightening their belt a notch and cut back in spending. The Federal Government, State Government, and City Government are imposing budget cuts in their respective branches, employees are faced with lay offs and furloughs. The Commonwealth of Virginia and the City of Portsmouth are no different. Which is were our interest lies. Our City Officials are cutting budgets in all City Departments and required cuts from all Constitutional Officers, telling the citizens of Portsmouth and all personnel that there is no more money. We all know that Portsmouth is strapped, but will always find ways to finance "Special Projects". We should ask our City Government, why they are taken money from Paul to give to Peter. Let me explain what I mean. We have two Jails in our City, the Hampton Roads Regional Jail and the Portsmouth City Jail. The Cities of Norfolk, Newport News, Hampton, and Portsmouth agreed on a regional jail, because of the projected savings to the individual cities, instead of each locality building their own facility. However they have to maintain a certain number of beds for inmates in that facility. —————>



The cost of housing a inmate in the Hampton Roads Regional Jail (HRRJ) is significantly higher than housing an inmate in the Portsmouth City Jail. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Jail Cost Report 2008 (2009 is not in circulation as of now) the average cost for an inmate in the HRRJ was \$70.68 per inmate a day in comparison to \$52.57 per inmate a day in the City Jail. The City of Portsmouth has 250 beds in the HRRJ and has to pay for they if there used or not. They charge the City of Portsmouth a Per Diem per bed, which is \$31.74 in comparison to \$8.00 for local inmate, \$12.00 for a State inmate in the City Jail.

In a recent meeting the Hampton Roads Regional Jail Authority (HRRJA) presented their preliminary Annual Budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The HRRJA consist of three city government members from each participating city. For our City the officials are City Councilman Stephen Heretick, City Manager Kenneth Chandler, and Sheriff Bill Watson. In absence of Sheriff Watson, Lt. Col. Bill Rucker is the alternate for attending the quarterly meetings. In this meeting the HRRJ requested a \$3.00 Per Diem, per day, increase per bed, per participating City, the first year, \$4.00 Per Diem per bed (including \$1 room/board money for each bed) increase for the second, third, and fourth year, and last but not least \$6.00 Per Diem (including room/board money for each bed) increase for the fifth year. This equates to \$365,000.00 the first year (including \$91,250.00 for room/board), second year \$730,000.00, third \$1,095,000.00, fourth year \$1,460,000.00, and the fifth year is \$ 2,007,500.00 for a total of \$ 5,657,500.00 over a five year period. This money is coming out of your pocket, Portsmouth Tax Payer! The HRRJ and the Portsmouth City Jail are charging each inmate \$1 per day for room and board this money has to be paid to the City of Portsmouth. The subject of room and board money came up in this meeting too and was voted on by the HRRJA. Now the HRRJ can keep this room and board money, while the Portsmouth Sheriff's Office still has to render the room and board money to the City. This was voted on by the members of the HRRJA. Norfolk's Sheriff Bob McCabe, Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan and our Lt. Col. Bill Rucker voted against this increase for the Hampton Roads Regional Jail. The increase passed with a vote of 4 to 3, which is unbelievable. City Councilman Stephen Heretick and City Manager Kenneth Chandler voted for this increase, which is a slap in the face to every City employee (lay offs and furloughs) and to every Constitutional Officer of the City of Portsmouth. It is embarrassing how our City seems to find money for pet projects, such as traffic circles, or new multi million dollar facade on a courthouse, but ignores the needs of departments, which bring money into the City's Treasury and work hard to improve our neighborhoods.

Please asked Mr. Heretick and Mr. Chandler "WHY".

Should you like to do some research on your own, the minutes of the meeting are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and can be obtain by contacting the Hampton Roads Regional Jail. Sheriff Watson is planning to address this issue before City Council on January 12, 2010 at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth Sheriff's Office

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