



FOCUS ON FRANCONIA

April/May 2005

BECOME A PART OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Who is keeping an eye on your neighborhood? Is it a criminal or a concerned neighbor? As you know, the police cannot be all places at all times. That is why we need your help. Who is more informed on what is going on in your community than the people who live there? Neighborhood Watch is a joint effort between the police department and your community. It is designed to improve communication and partnerships between your neighborhood and the police officers who patrol it.

Neighborhood Watch is made up of volunteers who

want to create closer and safer neighborhoods. Advantages of Neighborhood Watch include reducing the opportunity for crime to occur in your community, a



greater sense of ownership, active participation in preventing and solving crime, and getting to know your neighbors.

It has been proven that in neighborhoods where citizens have joined together to look out for each other's safety, the incidence of

burglaries and other crimes against property have been significantly reduced.

Neighborhood Watch is one of the easiest and most cost effective ways for communities to defend themselves against criminals. If you are interested in starting up a Neighborhood Watch in your community, please contact the Crime Prevention Office of the Franconia District Station at (703) 922-8263. It is easier than you think and you can easily fit it in to your busy lifestyle.

Dates to Remember:

- * *May 8—Mother's Day*
- * *May 15—National Peace Officers Memorial Day*
- * *May 18—CAC Meeting*
- * *May 30—Memorial Day*

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

National Police Week is always the calendar week in which May 15th, National Peace Officers Memorial Day falls. It is a time to remember and pay tribute to those in law enforcement who have been killed in the line of duty. The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was dedicated in 1991 by President George Bush. It honors all of America's federal, state and local

law enforcers. Inscribed on the memorial's blue-gray marble walls are the names of more than 17,000



officers who have been killed in the line of duty dating back to the first

known death in 1794. The memorial is located on Judiciary Square in Washington, D.C. If you would like more information on Police Week and a schedule of events, you can visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund website at www.nleomf.com.

154 officers died in the line of duty in 2004

APRIL OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Each month the Citizen Advisory Committee recognizes an officer for his or her outstanding performance and dedication. For the month of April, we would like to recognize Auxiliary Officer Tim Scott.

APO Scott has been a dedicated and committed auxiliary police officer with this department for the past 12 years. He is in charge of the auxiliaries at the Franconia District Station and is also a member of the honor guard. On a daily basis, auxiliary police officers put themselves at risk like other officers, but do not get compensated for their service to the police department. They are also not allowed to carry weapons while on duty. Regardless of these limitations, APO Scott is constantly putting himself in harm's way during his tour of duty in order to serve and protect the public.

On December 12, 2004, APO Scott was working a plain

clothes assignment at the Springfield Mall with the Christmas Anti-Theft Team. He received a call on his cell phone from mall security advising him that an employee in one of the stores observed a young man attempting to throw bullets from his coat pocket into a trash can. APO Scott



met with mall security officers who pointed the man out to him. APO Scott approached the suspect and identified himself. The suspect became very nervous when APO Scott began questioning him on what he was doing. For safety reasons, it became necessary for APO

Scott to physically detain the suspect until other officers arrived to assist him.

A search of the suspect revealed that he was in possession of a box cutter and a gun. The suspect was arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a handgun by a minor and receiving a stolen firearm.

Further investigation revealed that this suspect, a 17-year-old Kingstowne area teenager, was connected to the series of eight armed robberies that took place in the Barry Road area between September 21 and November 2, 2004. Of these eight robberies, the juvenile was charged with four.

If it were not for APO Scott responding as quickly as he did and physically detaining this suspect, he might never have been arrested. APO Scott is commended for his actions.

MAJOR INCIDENTS

- ◆ A 19-year-old Alexandria-area woman was the victim of a peeping and attempted burglary. On Sunday, April 3, at approximately 3 a.m., a woman in the 6300 block of Beryl Road woke up after hearing a noise at her apartment window. She looked outside and saw a man walking down the sidewalk. Approximately five minutes later, a man attempted to open the same window and fled when the victim threw a pillow at the blinds.
- ◆ A 57-year-old Alexandria-area woman was attacked in her home. On Sunday, April 3, at approximately 3:30 a.m., a man broke into an apartment in the 5600 block of Bismach Drive. He attacked the woman and attempted to sexually assault her at knifepoint. The suspect then fled the scene. The victim was taken to INOVA Fairfax Hospital for minor injuries. **Police arrested Daniel W. Newman, 24, of 6363 Beryl Road #4, on Thursday, April 14 at 8:30 p.m. He was charged with four felonies in connection with this incident and the first one listed. Newman was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and is being held without bond.**

Major Incidents continued

- ◆ Police are investigating a robbery that occurred at a Springfield-area hotel. On Monday, April 11, at approximately 10 p.m., the Comfort Inn Hotel located at 6560 Loisdale Court was robbed. A 55-year-old Springfield-area woman working at the front desk was approached by a man who inquired about a room for the night. The man then pulled out a gun and demanded money from the clerk. An undisclosed amount of cash was given to the suspect who fled on foot towards the Springfield Mall. The victim was not injured.
- ◆ A break-in and attempted sexual assault occurred in the Springfield area. On Thursday, April 14, at approximately 6:30 a.m., the police responded to an apartment in the 7000 block of Skyles Way. A 22-year-old Springfield-area woman had been in the bedroom of her home when someone knock on the bedroom door. When she answered the door, she found a man standing there with a knife. He attempted to sexually assault her and then fled out the sliding glass door of her apartment, where he had broken in. She was not injured, but was taken to Fairfax Hospital for an exam.
- ◆ Alert police officers on patrol caught three suspected car thieves in the Franconia area and recovered three stolen cars. On Saturday, April 30 at approximately 4:30 a.m., police officers observed three men acting suspiciously around a 1994 Honda Civic in the 5900 block of Brookview Drive. After approaching the three men, officers noticed that the ignition was missing from the Honda and that there were various car parts in the vehicle. Investigation revealed that the Honda was stolen and that the three suspects were allegedly stealing car parts. Further investigation uncovered another stolen vehicle, a 1991 Honda Accord, close by on Brookview Drive. Further investigation also revealed that a third stolen vehicle, a 1997 Honda Accord, was located on Pole Road and Old Mill Road. **Vincente L. Lopez, 20, of 4513 S. 31st street #201 in Arlington and Pablo A. Orellano, 20, of 6015 Lee-wood Drive in the Franconia area were arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Both men were charged with two counts of grand larceny and held on a \$4,000 bond. A 17-year-old male was also arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center and charged with grand larceny and possession of stolen property.**

MAY OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

For the month of May, we would like to recognize Officers Steve Szakos and John Parker. Detective Aniello DeSantis nominated these two officers for their unrelenting investigation in the attempt to capture a female suspect. The suspect was a known drug addict who had assumed the identity of her former boyfriend's elderly parents. She had been fraudulently using a number of their credit card accounts to support her drug habit. Early in the investigation, both officers took it upon themselves to locate her. They were also concerned for the well-being of her 14-year-old daughter. The daughter had been on the run for several months with her mother while she was doing

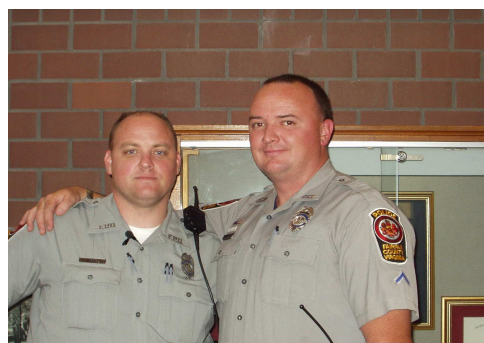
drugs along the Route 1 corridor.

When it was learned that a drug dealer who frequently associated with the suspect was a convicted child sex offender, Officers Szakos and Parker stepped up their efforts. They went to a number of houses in an attempt to locate the suspect and her daughter. They finally located the daughter in a known drug house in the Mount Vernon district and also found three other people there who had outstanding warrants for them in Fairfax County.

On February 2, 2005, the Public Information Office released a crime solvers bulletin announcing a \$1,000 reward for the suspect's arrest. Later that evening, she was located in a hotel on Route 1 and arrested. Investigation revealed that

because these officers were continually showing up at different locations looking for the suspect, that her friends began to alienate her.

Detective DeSantis has no doubt that the determination of these two officers and their efforts were directly responsible for the arrest of the suspect. Officers Szakos and Parker should be commended for their dedication and commitment in handling this case.



OUR CRIME ANALYST RECEIVES AWARD

On April 16, Simone Engelhardt-Greer, our crime analyst here at the Franconia District Station, received a community service award from the American Legion.

Simone began her career with the Fairfax County Police Department five years ago after the crime analyst position became civilianized. Formerly from Muenster, Germany, Simone came to the United States as an exchange student while in high school. After high school, she decided to stay in the United States and further her education. Simone attended East Tennessee State University and finished up her college education at Sam Houston State University.

Simone's knowledge and dedication to her job has helped tremendously in reshaping the crime analysis unit. Her hard work in the development of the CompStat process and the Sam site have made these two tools successful in assisting patrol commanders, officers, detectives, and crime prevention officers in the Franconia District.

CompStat is utilized by commanders to track different criminal activities occurring in their patrol districts. The bi-monthly reports and meetings assist in projecting manpower and special enforcement needed by patrol squads and special units at the station.



The Sam site gives the officers and detectives for each patrol service area a location to obtain and pass on information about criminal activity and community

needs. This site has been very beneficial in solving crimes and traffic violations.

Along with the duties of maintaining the information in these two areas, Simone also designs probability studies and grid maps to aid detectives when doing surveillance. One such study that Simone performed allowed the detectives to set up a stakeout in a certain location at a certain time. In utilizing this predictive analysis, the detectives made an apprehension on a suspect who had burglarized 16 homes in this area.

Simone's hard work and commitment have made her a valuable asset to the Franconia District Station.

FRANCONIA OFFICER RECEIVES AWARD FOR MOST DWI ARRESTS

On April 16, Police Officer First Class Greg McNiff also received a community service award from the American Legion.

Greg first came to this area to join the Vienna Police Department in 1997. After a couple of years he left to go back home to New Jersey where he became a Montvale Township Police Officer. He remained there for a year before deciding to come back to the Northern Virginia area where he was hired by the Fairfax County Police Department in 2000.

During Greg's career, he has consistently been one of the leaders in DWI arrests for the entire police department. In 2003, he made 40 DWI arrests and received an award from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) for leading the Franconia District in DWI arrests. In 2004, Greg continued to make our streets safer from drunk drivers by arresting 64 individuals

for DWI. This was the most arrests made by any Fairfax County police officer. Making DWI arrests is only half the battle. With that many DWI arrests comes countless hours in court to ensure that all of the cases are prosecuted successfully.



Greg has not only left his mark as an outstanding officer in regards to making DWI arrests, he has also passed his

knowledge and expertise along to two new officers that he has trained. These two officers, Officers Ryan Kaspar and Al Cerna, have taken what Greg has taught them and have excelled in their own right. This past year they were the fourth and sixth highest producers in DWI arrests in the entire county. The three of them together have accounted for almost 150 DWI arrests in 2004 alone.

Because of Greg's efforts and the influence he has had on other officers, he may have a greater impact on keeping our roadways safer from drunk drivers than possibly any other officer in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax County Police Department Citizens Advisory Council

Since 1979, the Fairfax County Police Department has facilitated interaction with the citizens it serves through formally established groups in each of its police districts, called Citizens Advisory Committees. The program is intended to provide a means for the Station Commander and his/her staff to learn directly of citizen concerns, and in turn, provide information on the delivery of police services that the group can subsequently share with others in their residential, business, civic, or religious organizations.

In addition to the district committees, there is a Citizen Advisory Council to the Chief of Police, which includes representatives from each of the Citizen Advisory Committees*, as well as appointed representatives from different ethnic and economic interests within the County. This body meets regularly with the Chief and his senior staff members and addresses the public safety concerns of the entire County. They also appear annually before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in public hearings to defend Police Department funding priorities such as staffing and officer benefits.

All of us who are privileged to sit as members of the Chief's Council are cognizant of the responsibility we carry as messengers of the public opinion of local law enforcement. It is true that most of us don't think about crime very much or very personally until it touches us directly. However, since the events of September 11, 2001, the subsequent anthrax scare, the area sniper attacks in October, 2002, and the devastating effects of Hurricane Isabel in the fall of 2003, the issue of law enforcement has taken on a much greater significance to those of us in Fairfax County. Now, more than ever, those of us who serve as liaisons between the citizenry and the Police Department regard our role as a necessary and effective tool for improved public safety. The challenges of the increasing gang presence in our area and the explosive population growth in Fairfax County necessitating greater numbers of sworn officers, are among the current issues we address.

We believe that the Citizens Advisory Council and its district CACs are of the highest relevance to the citizens of Fairfax County. It is our wish that we be able to continue to improve the relationship between the people who live and work here and the officers who give so much of themselves to keep us safe.

For more information, please feel free to contact me:

Janet Patrick

Chair, Fairfax County Police Department Citizens Advisory Council

jpatcac@aol.com

*Representatives from your Franconia CAC are: Woody Betts (Vice-Chair, Fairfax County Police Department Citizens Advisory Council), Norm Cherkis, and Sue Hotto.

Your Franconia Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Franconia CAC meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month (except for the month of August) at 7:30 pm at the Franconia Police Station on Franconia Road. Social hour starts at 7:00 pm for those who wish to grab a light snack or just would like to have a few minutes to chat with neighbors.

Each month, the CAC honors the officer(s) who has been nominated by his or her supervisor to receive such recognition. At the meeting, the officer(s) is publicly recognized thanked and presented with an "Officer of the Month" certificate. This year we have also been able to present a gift certificate that has been donated by restaurants in the area. I would like to publicly thank the following restaurants for their spirit of community and ask that, as you visit these restaurants, you do the same:

King Street Blues

Mikes American Grill

Macaroni Grill

Outback Steak House

Mango Mikes

Polo Grill

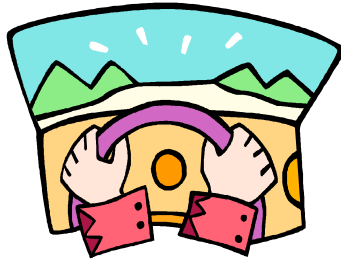
Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th. Our fingers are crossed that Chief Rohrer will be able to join us then; I am also hoping we will get to hear about the Bike Unity Tour that five members of the Franconia Station participated in. Until then..... Sue Hotto, Chair, Franconia CAC, 703-354-1988, sue.hotto@gallaudet.edu

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

MATURE OPERATOR'S DRIVER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (MODIP)

The Fairfax County Police Department offers residents 55 years of age and older enrollment in the Mature Operator's Driver Improvement Program (MODIP). This eight-hour course, which provides safe driving information, is sanctioned by the American Automobile Association (AAA) and is presented by certified Fairfax County Auxiliary Police Officers. Upon completion of this course, drivers are eligible for the Virginia

state-mandated insurance premium reduction (check with individual in-



urance carriers for the amount). The classes are held the second Saturday

of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Franconia District Police Station located at 6121 Franconia Road. Registration is required and can be done by contacting the MODIP reservation line at (703) 924-6588 or (703) 280-0621. The fee for this course is \$10.00 per person for books and materials.

SEXUAL ASSAULT FREE AND EMPOWERED (SAFE)

In the United States a woman is assaulted every six minutes. Three out of four women will experience at least one violent crime in their lifetimes. Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked? SAFE is a woman's self-defense program that teaches realistic self-defense

tactics and techniques. The program begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and avoidance. It then progresses to the basics of hands-on defense training. To learn more about SAFE or to register for the course, please call (703) 246-7806.



FRANCONIA POLICE STATION SERVICES

For more information regarding the following services, please contact the crime prevention office at (703) 922-8263 or e-mail Crime Prevention Officers Sheri Cooke or Philip Edwards at the following email addresses: sheri.cooke@fairfaxcounty.gov or philip.edwards@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Franconia Focus Newsletter and Weekly Crime Report: If you are interested in being on our e-mail/ mailing list for the monthly "Focus on Franconia" Newsletter or on the e-

mail list for the Weekly Crime Report, please contact us to sign up.

Home/Business Security Assessments: Are you concerned about the safety and security of your home or business? If so, call us to schedule a free security assessment. We will make recommendations and offer suggestions on how you can better safeguard your home or business.

Neighborhood Watch Training: We will not be scheduling any more monthly training sessions at the sta-

tion due to the low turnout of people. If your community is interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch training, please call us and we will schedule a time to come to your community and give the training.

VIN Etching: The vehicle identification number is etched into the windows of your car to help reduce the risk of vehicle theft. Please contact us to schedule an appointment.

Franconia District Police Station
6121 Franconia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22310
Main Phone: (703) 922-0889
Fax : (703) 719-6436

Captain Maggie DeBoard
Station Commander

Lieutenant Lloyd B. Gamble
Assistant Station Commander

Email: fracapt@fairfaxcounty.gov

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Child Safety Seat Inspection Hotline
(703) 280-0559

Citizen Reporting Unit
(703) 922-2230

For reports not requiring an officer
Allow 24-72 hour call back time

OR

On-line Reporting
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov, public
safety-police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/public-safety-police)

Fairfax County Crime Solvers
(703) 691-8888 or 1(866) 411-TIPS

Fairfax County Police
Emergency: 911
Non-Emergency: (703) 691-2131