

The POLICE BEAT



A publication of the Alexandria Police Department

Winter 2011

INSIDE THIS EDITION

- 2 Message from the Chief
- 3 Alexandria Tackles Mental Illness
- 4 Officer Honored at Dedication
- 5 Holden Honored at WRAP Awards
- 5 Taylor, Burkholder Honored as Officers of the Year
- 6 Police Arrest Two Burglary Suspects
- 7 Officers Promote Graffiti Removal
- 8 Peyton Jones Retires
- 8 Detective Gurdak Retires
- 9 Preventing Moped Thefts
- 9 Part 1 Crime Statistics
- 10 Police Department in Action

ACCESS ALEXANDRIA

- Follow the City on Twitter (AlexandriaVAGov)
- Join us on Facebook (City of Alexandria)
- Sign up for eNews Alerts at www.alexandriava.gov/enews



SECTOR TWO OFFICERS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER

On Saturday, December 18, four Sector Two Community-Oriented Police (COPS) Officers delivered gifts and food to nine Lynhaven and Hume Springs families.

The officers, with assistance from each civic association, selected families in need that could use Christmas gifts and food for the holidays. The selected families each had children between the ages of 8 and 15 years.



Officers Matthew Kramarik, Nicholas Ruggiero, Captain Diane Gittins and Sergeant Jose Garcia prepare to deliver gifts to residents in the Lynhaven and Hume Springs neighborhoods.

The officers received private donations from each civic association and used these funds to purchase gifts for the children. More than 60 presents were purchased and distributed through these donations. In addition, each family received all the trimmings for a wonderful holiday dinner, including a case of water and soda. These meals were made possible thanks to the generosity of Giant Food LLC, who partnered in this event. "This day was a huge success and generated warm smiles from both the officers and the communities involved," said Officer Nicholas Ruggiero.

The officers who participated were Officer Nicholas Ruggiero, Officer Matthew Kramarik, Sergeant Jose Garcia and Captain Dianne Gittins.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

EARL L. COOK, CHIEF OF POLICE



As we enter a new year, the hard work and dedication of all staff, sworn and civilian, continues to place the Alexandria Police Department in the forefront of the law enforcement community. Through problem-oriented policing and hot spot initiatives, we continue to experience historic and unprecedented crime lows throughout the City of Alexandria in 2010.

Currently, the entire country is experiencing significant budget issues and reductions. The Alexandria Police Department is no exception. I am extremely proud of the men and women of this Department for rising to the occasion and striving to do more with less. Throughout 2010, officers on their beats looked for ways to improve their communities. Whether through discovering new methods for removing graffiti or taking strides to reduce moped thefts, our officers continually demonstrated an intense desire to improve the quality of life for all residents.

The continued crime lows and quality of life in 2010 are the proud results of all personnel dedicated to the communities they serve. In 2011, we plan to continue our efforts to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in Alexandria. Through problem-oriented policing, new technologies and an unwavering commitment to our communities we plan to carry and continue to improve on the success of 2010 in the new year.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl L. Cook".

Earl L. Cook
Chief of Police

STEPPING UP FOR CHANGE: ALEXANDRIA CITY OFFICIALS TACKLE MENTAL ILLNESS IN COMMUNITY AND JAIL

Officials from the City of Alexandria participated in a workshop to develop integrated strategies aimed at effectively identifying and responding to the needs of justice-involved adults with co-occurring mental and substance use disorders.

The workshop was hosted by Police Chief Earl Cook, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, and Liz Wixson, Director of Clinical and Emergency Services at the Alexandria Community Services Board. Together they led discussions to develop a plan to halt the recidivistic criminal justice cycle experienced by many persons with mental illness and substance use disorders. Key leaders from across Alexandria's criminal justice and mental health/substance abuse providers participated in the meeting, sponsored by the Virginia State Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

Nationally, individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders are an increasing presence within the criminal justice system. Studies have shown that 6.4% of men and 12.2% of women entering U.S. jails have a severe and persistent mental illness, compared to less than 2% of the general population. Of these individuals, 72% have a co-occurring substance use disorder. With more than 650,000 individuals returning to communities each year from US prisons and seven million individuals returning from jails, effective linkage and access to community services for people with a mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder is critical to reduce an often repetitious cycle of justice involvement.

Using a tool developed by Policy Research Associates in Delmar, New York, attendees identified existing community resources, service gaps, and opportunities for improved service coordination and communication between mental health, substance abuse, and criminal justice professionals. During the workshop, participants developed a map detailing the flow of criminal justice contact from arrest to incarceration, referral and access to services, and points for diversion from the justice system across the



Officials from throughout the City gathered during the workshop aimed at identifying and responding to the needs of adults with mental and substance abuse disorders.



Deputy City Manager Michele Evans, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, Liz Wixson, Mike Gilmore, Mayor William D. Euille and Chief Earl Cook participated in the workshop.

City of Alexandria. Strategies for systems change implemented by other US communities were considered. According to Dr. Henry J. Steadman of Policy Research Associates, "This workshop is a strategic planning session intended to foster systemic change and provide each participating community with the tools necessary to move forward to enhance services for adults with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in contact with the justice system."



RETIRED POLICE EMPLOYEE HONORED AT EMERGENCY VEHICLE OPERATIONS CENTER DEDICATION

On December 8, the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy (NVCJTA) and the Prince William County Criminal Justice Training Academy hosted a dedication ceremony for the new Emergency Vehicle Operations Center (EVOC). The EVOC is located at 13170 Public Safety Drive Nokesville, Virginia 20181.

At the ceremony, the late Sergeant Richard "Dick" Lloyd (Retired) and his family were recognized at the unveiling of a boulevard named in his honor. He was selected to serve on the academy staff of the NVCJTA on May 7, 1979, after competing with two other officers and served in this assignment until 1985. When Sgt. Lloyd was an instructor at the Old Dominion Speedway, on the last day of training for each recruit class, there was a mock pursuit and all of the students had to pursue him. Sgt. Lloyd, with support from the other instructors well advised the recruit class that he could not only out drive them, but he could out drive them while they drove forward and he drove in reverse. He almost always won! Those who worked very closely with Sgt. Lloyd always said he was an awesome person, although some recruits say he used to scare them when they were at the NVCJTA because he was the Traffic Instructor in the class room and he looked really mean. Later they discovered he was just a big teddy bear. Some actually had "bear" pins for their shift and wore them on their uniform shirts to honor him.

Sergeant Lloyd retired from the Alexandria Police Department on March 31, 1995, and shortly



An aerial view of the new Emergency Vehicle Operations Center (EVOC) in Nokesville, VA.



Lloyd Boulevard at the new EVOC is named after the late Sergeant Richard "Dick" Lloyd, a retired member of the Alexandria Police Department.

thereafter went to work with the Federal Bureau of Investigations as a driving instructor at their EVOC in Quantico, VA.



OFFICER HOLDEN HONORED AT WRAP AWARDS

On December 17, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) honored Officer Gregory Holden with its Law Enforcement Award of Excellence for Impaired Driving Prevention. The award recognizes area law enforcement officers who go beyond the call of duty to combat drunk driving. The award is presented in memory of Officer Anthony W. Simms of the Metropolitan Police Department, who was killed by an impaired driver on Memorial Day 1996.

Officer Holden made 21 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests so far in 2010, and has made significant efforts to improve the quality of life for residents. He serves as a hot spot officer in Sector Three and has worked as the organizer and presenter at numerous "Coffee with Cops" community meetings throughout the City.



Officer Greg Holden (top row, third from the left) poses with the other award winners.

WRAP is an award-winning, public-private partnership working to prevent drunk-driving and underage drinking in the Washington Metropolitan area.



OFFICERS TAYLOR AND BURKHOLDER HONORED BY SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB

On November 9, Officer William Taylor and Officer Keith Burkholder were honored as Sunrise Optimist Club Officers of the Year.

In May 2010, Officers Taylor and Burkholder asked to take kids from the James Bland, Andrew Adkins and Hopkins/Tancil public housing communities to a Washington Nationals game. They were told what a large feat it would be due to the travel, cost and planning that it required. The officers were not discouraged and assured it was a task they were up to because they wanted to reward the kids for doing well in school all year long.

Officers Taylor and Burkholder secured donations of tickets, and transportation on the Potomac Riverboat, carefully selected chaperones and ensured the children selected to go on the trip were deserving, based on their demonstrated good behavior and recommendations from community leaders.

On July 29, 2010, Officers Taylor and Burkholder, Sector One Community-Oriented Police (COPS)

officers and 30 children watched the Washington Nationals play the Atlanta Braves. Even though there was an hour rain delay, it was obvious both the kids and the officers were enjoying the event. For the majority of the children it was not only their first Major League Baseball game but their first boat ride as well.



Officers Keith Burkholder and William Taylor were honored as Sunrise Optimist Club Officers of the Year for their efforts in conceiving and planning an outing for the kids in the James Bland, Andrew Adkins and Hopkins/Tancil communities.

ALEXANDRIA POLICE ARREST TWO BURGLARS

Alexandria Police Detectives have charged two men in separate burglaries after a thorough investigation into two commercial burglaries that occurred in November of 2010.

The first burglary occurred between the evening of November 4 and morning hours of November 5 in the 2000 block of Duke Street. The suspect entered the business after closing and stole six laptops. He was caught on video surveillance cameras, and identified as Kenard Eugene Johnson, 45, of Prince George's County, Maryland. Warrants for Johnson were issued for burglary, grand larceny and larceny with the intent to sell. He was taken into custody by Prince George's County Police on December 10 without incident. He has since been extradited to Arlington County, where he faces charges in their jurisdiction. He will be held there pending extradition to Alexandria.

The second commercial burglary occurred between November 10 and 11 in the 1600 block of Duke Street. The suspect entered the business after hours and stole three laptops and other small electronic devices, including a projection system, video game system, digital camera, web camera and external hard drive. Video surveillance cameras captured the suspect. The suspect was identified as Morris Woodrow Feggins, 41, of Washington, DC. Feggins was charged with burglary and grand larceny. He was taken into custody at his residence

with the assistance of the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). With the cooperation of MPD detectives, a search warrant was obtained and executed at his residence. The search revealed a large stash of laptops, electronic devices and jewelry. These items were taken as evidence by detectives and will be sorted through to help of close several other cases around the region. Ultimately Police hope to return the items to their rightful owners.

Both Johnson and Feggins potentially face other charges pending the outcome of the investigations.



Kenard Eugene Johnson (left) and Morris Woodrow Feggins (right) were arrested and charged with burglary and grand larceny in two burglaries that occurred in November.



A search of Morris Woodrow Feggins' residence uncovered laptops, electronic devices and jewelry. These items will be sorted by detectives in the hopes of closing other cases.

OFFICERS STRIVE TO REDUCE GRAFFITI THROUGHOUT ALEXANDRIA

While patrolling their beat, Officers Nicholas Ruggiero and Matthew Kramarik noticed that graffiti was all too common among the traffic signs and playgrounds in the Hume Springs community. They submitted a request to have the graffiti removed through the City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities. Unfortunately, they discovered that there was a long waiting period to have graffiti removed after a request was filed. Due to budget cuts, the Graffiti Removal Team had been absorbed into the Regular Maintenance Team for the City. With no team dedicated to graffiti removal, the time between submitting a report and having the graffiti removed significantly increased.

Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik decided to research the procedures that big cities use for graffiti removal. Through their research the officers found a company called Graffiti Removal, Inc. The officers contacted the company president to inquire about their graffiti removal products. Through this conversation, the company sent the officers a packet to test the product. The packet contained samples of the product, videos and all supplies necessary to remove graffiti from all test surfaces.

Hopeful but skeptical, Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik went to Hume Springs to test out the products. The first test they conducted was on a No Parking sign that was covered in graffiti and was scheduled to be replaced by the City. Amazingly, the graffiti removal product removed every trace of graffiti from the sign. The sign looked brand new and, as a result, no longer needs to be replaced. The officers continued to test the product throughout the Hume Springs area. They were able to remove graffiti from surfaces throughout the community, including the playground at Cora Kelly Elementary School.

Impressed by the graffiti removal product, Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik presented the product and its effectiveness in cleaning up the community at Hume Springs next civic association meeting. The civic association immediately agreed to buy more supplies to continue improving the neighborhood.

The cost for the City to repair the graffiti damage in the Hume Springs area would have been \$6,823.00. The supplies, purchased by the Hume Springs Civic Association, cost \$12 and allowed the residents to clean up the graffiti that had plagued their community. With the community now graffiti free, residents were inspired to further beautify their community. On November 6, residents got together to plant new plants and mulch areas throughout the neighborhood. In addition, there have been no new graffiti marks or destruction of property complaints since the initial graffiti removal on September 3.



Officer Nicholas Ruggiero uses a graffiti removal product to remove graffiti from a sign. The use of this product in the Hume Springs community saved the City thousands of dollars.



Officers used the graffiti removal product, from Graffiti Removal, Inc., to clean up local playground in the Hume Springs community.

YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR PEYTON JONES RETIRES

On January 3, Youth Services Coordinator Peyton Jones retired after 25 years of service at the Alexandria Police Department.

As Youth Services Coordinator, Peyton provided counseling to both parents and juveniles. She followed up on youth cases that warranted additional involvement, tracked juvenile arrests and provided advice to patrol officers regarding youth cases.

During her 25 years with the Department, Peyton investigated over 3,500 Runaway and Child in Need of Services cases. She conducted more than 5,000 counseling sessions for schools, parents, juveniles and other City agencies. Peyton worked closely with the Court Services Unit to divert at-risk youth away from the juvenile justice system before they became serious offenders. In addition, she has served on a number of multi-agency committees, including the Attendance Review Panel, Foster Care Review Panel,



Peyton Jones is presented with a shadow box by Sergeant Bart Bailey as Lieutenant Derek Gaunt looks on.

Youth Services Coordinating Counsel, Alexandria-Arlington Work Incentive Board's Youth Council and the Juvenile Crime Coalition.



DETECTIVE STEVE GURDAK RETIRES

On September 1, Detective Steve Gurdak retired after a law enforcement career spanning over 30 years.

Steve Gurdak began his law enforcement career in 1978 when he was hired by the Washington Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department.

On July 7, 1980, Detective Gurdak was hired by the Alexandria Police Department. He worked as an officer on the streets until being transferred to NVCJTA in 1984. Gurdak served as an instructor at the academy. Since 1988, Gurdak has been assigned to the Vice/Narcotics Section as a detective. IN 1996, he was assigned to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Money Laundering Initiative Task Force. In this assignment, he worked with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to reduce drug trafficking.

Detective Gurdak was honored numerous times throughout his career. In 1994, he was awarded



Chief Earl Cook presents Detective Steve Gurdak with a shadow box at his retirement luncheon.

“Officer of the Year” by the Sunrise Optimist Club for his work on a narcotics investigation. In 2002, he was again awarded as “Officer of the Year,” this time by the Alexandria Kiwanis Club for his work on the Money Laundering Task Force.




OFFICERS MAKE EFFORTS TO REDUCE MOPED THEFTS

Last fall, Officers Nicholas Ruggiero and Matthew Kramarik noticed that an increasing number of mopeds were being stolen from Sector 2. They decided to take action. The officers learned that the department had many unused Glock handgun locks that had been donated from a government program. They borrowed a lock and tested its effectiveness on securing a moped. The lock was able to secure the moped and proved extremely durable and difficult to tamper with. The officers asked for more locks and were given 1,000 to give to residents with mopeds.



Locks, like the one pictured above, were handed out to moped owners in an effort to prevent moped thefts.

As Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik handed out the locks to the community, they began compiling a database to monitor and register the mopeds in Sector 2. They numbered each lock and collected the mopeds Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), make, model, color and the name and address of the owner if possible. The officers handed out 20 locks on the first day and entered the information of each moped they encountered in their database.

To date, Officers Ruggiero and Kramarik have handed out 32 locks and registered 70 mopeds. Their database has already proven itself to be a great resource for the department. Officers were able to locate the victim of a stolen moped whose information had been recorded by the officers. 

PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS

OFFENSE	2009	2010	% CHANGE
Homicide	5	2	-60.00%
Rape	13	20	53.85
Robbery	144	124	-13.89
Aggravated Assault	113	126	11.50
Burglary	325	312	-4.00
Larceny	2757	2760	1.20
Auto Theft	345	283	-17.97
Total	3702	3657	-1.22%

*Crime statistics are for the period of January 1 through December 31, 2010, and are compared to the same period of the previous year. The numbers in the chart are raw and unverified. They are not the final crime statistic values for 2010 and may be changed by our review process.

POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION



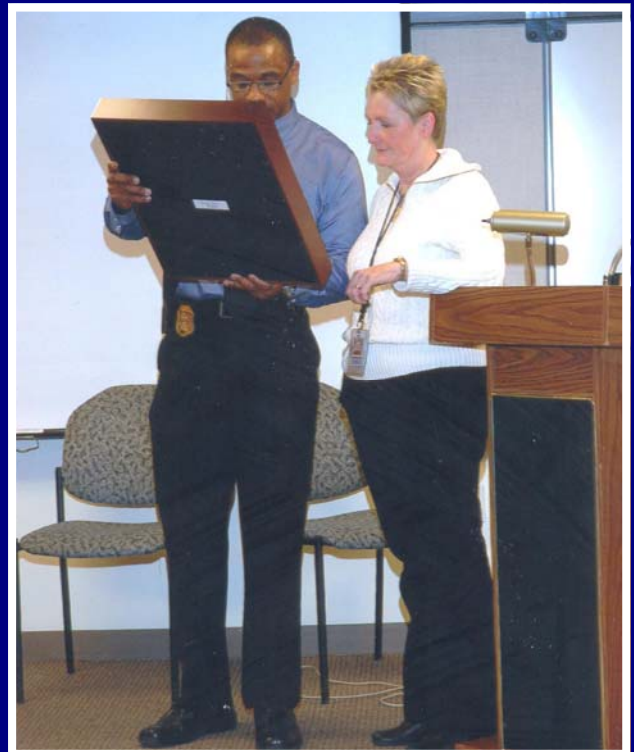
Officers Keith Burkholder, Christian Staunton, Bobby Taylor and Matt Wilson participated in ARHA's Winter Wonderland at the Charles Houston Recreation Center on December 22.



Officer Jesse Meekins and Sergeant Gwen Diggs show a class of preschoolers the inside of a police car during a birthday party at the Bright Start Preschool on December 3.



Officer Matt Kramarik removes graffiti from a traffic sign in the Lynhaven area.



Detective Bart Bailey presents Peyton Jones with a plaque for her years of service. Peyton retired January 3 after 25 years with the Police Department.



Officers Nichols Ruggiero and Matthew Kramarik film a segment for Mayor Euille Today. The segment highlighted their efforts to clean up graffiti in the City.

**Alexandria Police
Department
2003 Mill Road
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.838.4444**

**Writer/Editor:
Ashley Hildebrandt**

**Contributors:
Jody Donaldson
Mary Craige**

**Photography:
Ashley Hildebrandt
Monica Lisle
Garry Ground**

**We're on the Web!
[www.alexandriava.gov/
Police](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Police)**

ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION AND VALUES

The mission of the Alexandria Police Department is to provide competent, courteous, professional and community-oriented police services. We are committed to maintaining and enhancing a strong and productive partnership with the community to continue to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in all of Alexandria's neighborhoods. We are dedicated to protecting life and property while assuring fair and equal treatment to everyone.

Central to the Department's mission are the values that guide its work and decisions.

We, the men and women of the Alexandria Police Department, value:

- Human Life
- Dignity
- Integrity
- Laws and Constitution
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Cooperation
- Problem-solving
- Ourselves

The Alexandria Police Department honors its family fighting for our country overseas: Ji Tam

2010 RETIREMENTS

Gregg Shields
Willie McMeans
Keith Wilhoit
Amy Flenniken
Amanda Brown
Jerry Schratz
Susan McCall
David Shepherd
Theresa Gholson
Steve Gurdak
Peyton Jones