



NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION 2020



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NEW SHERIFF ORIENTATION SCHOOL

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- New Sheriff Orientation School.....2
- VSA Legislative Priorities.....2
- Violent Crime Rate Down.....2
- Teen Driving Fatalities3
- Telephone Scam Alert.....3
- VSI Spring Conference3
- Executive Order on Law Enforcement.....3
- Scholarship Applications Now Available3
- Buckle Up Rear Passengers ...4
- Driving on Icy Roads.....4
- Message from John W. Jones.....4



2019-2020

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Executive Director
John W. Jones

NEW SHERIFF ORIENTATION SCHOOL

All 27 newly elected sheriffs from around Virginia gathered at the New Sheriff Orientation School hosted by the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute on December 3-5, 2019 in Richmond.

Thanks to support from our members in your community and all across Virginia, we were able to hold a very comprehensive New Sheriff Orientation School which covered a vast array of information. The three-day training session included informational sessions on topics ranging from the Virginia law on conflict of interest to sheriffs' accounting practices. From the Speaker of the House Eileen Filler-Corn, Former House Speaker Kirk Cox and Delegate Terry Austin welcoming the newly-elected sheriffs to comments from Virginia State Police Superintendent Col. Gary Settle, many remarkable individuals contributed knowledge and insight to this orientation.

Also, the newly elected sheriffs had a



great opportunity to become familiar with the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and get acquainted with experienced sheriffs who serve in positions of leadership for both organizations.

Overall, the New Sheriff Orientation School offered Virginia's newly elected sheriffs an invaluable opportunity to improve their effectiveness as dedicated public safety officials — something from which every Virginian benefits.

VSA'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

This year the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) will work with members of the 2020 Virginia General Assembly to focus on issues that help promote public safety and criminal justice in the Commonwealth.

The 2020 General Assembly session will be extremely important because of the new members of the House of Delegates and Senate taking the oath of office this year.

The VSA has a long history of working

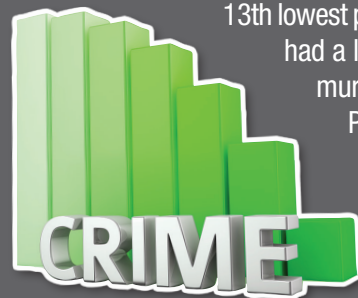
through issues that affect the safety of the citizens in our communities.

Mental health, gun legislation, adequate funding for law enforcement are just a few of the issues we will focus on in the upcoming session.

Through your assistance, the sheriffs are able to send a strong message, and as in the past, we will show a strong engagement with the General Assembly on behalf of all the communities in Virginia.

VIRGINIA RANKS 4TH LOWEST FOR VIOLENT CRIME RATE

According to new data from the FBI, Virginia had the 4th lowest violent crime rate and the 13th lowest property rate in the U.S. in 2018. Only Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire had a lower violent crime rate. Under the FBI's definition, violent crimes include murder and negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Property crimes include burglary, larceny theft, and motor vehicle theft.



The violent crime rate decreased 3 percent and the property crime rate dropped 7 percent in Virginia from 2017 to 2018. Overall reduction in crime is a testament to the strength of Virginia law enforcement efforts and ongoing work to reduce recidivism.

**STOP BY VSA'S
ONLINE STORE!**



At VSA's online store you will find high-quality men's and women's apparel, items for hunting, and other items that are perfect for gifts.

vsa.thepromomall.com

TEEN DRIVING FATALITIES ON THE RISE

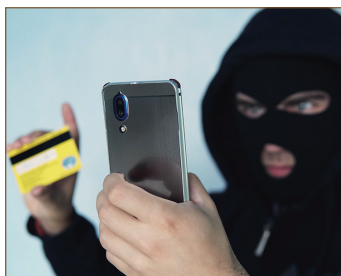
According to a recent report by the Department of Motor Vehicle's Highway Safety Office, the number of people who died in Virginia crashes dropped by 4 percent in 2018 compared to the previous year. However, compared to the number of crash fatalities in 2014, which hit a record low of 700, the figure remains high.



Teen-driver related fatalities saw a 22 percent increase from 2017, and alcohol-related crashes also rose 12 percent in 2018. Pedestrian fatalities increased by 8 percent, and yet, most crashes are avoidable, and all Virginians can help lower the risk of crash-related fatalities by taking these simple steps: following the speed limit, avoiding distractions while driving and remaining focused on the road, buckling seat belts, and avoiding alcohol and drugs.

Virginia law enforcement officers also continue to raise awareness about our "Move Over" law, which requires drivers to change to another lane, or when unable to, cautiously pass emergency personnel stopped on the side of the road.

TELEPHONE SCAM ALERT



The latest telephone scam targeting Virginians spoofs the name and telephone number of a Virginia court on the recipient's voicemail and/or caller ID. Scammers claim to be representatives of the Virginia court and demand monies and personal information, like Social

Security numbers or credit card numbers.

Be advised that court personnel will never initiate a call with you to collect payments, unless you have requested someone to return a call you've placed with the court. In addition, Virginia courts do not call private citizens to threaten or demand money.

If you receive a call and are uncertain if it's coming from a legitimate source, you should contact the court directly.

ANNUAL VSI SPRING CONFERENCE

The VSI Spring Conference & VSA Exhibition is designed to inform sheriffs and deputies on matters relating to their office that passed during the most recent session of the General Assembly. This year's Spring Conference is scheduled for April 22-24, 2020 at the Embassy Suites Hampton and the Hampton Roads Convention Center.

PRESIDENT TRUMP SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER ON LAW ENFORCEMENT

During the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference in Chicago on October 28, 2019, President Trump signed an Executive Order creating the Commission on Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice. As directed by the Attorney General, the Commission is tasked with making recommendations regarding important current issues facing law enforcement and the criminal justice system such as:

- challenges to law enforcement associated with mental illness, homelessness, substance abuse, and other social factors that influence crime and strain criminal justice resources;
- the recruitment, hiring, training, and retention of law enforcement officers, including in rural and tribal communities;
- the potential for public and private initiatives, including in "qualified opportunity zones" as defined in section 13823(a) of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, to reduce crime and improve police-community relations;
- refusals by state and local prosecutors to enforce laws or prosecute categories of crimes;
- the physical safety, health, and wellness of law enforcement officers;
- the need to promote public respect for the law and law enforcement officers; and
- other topics related to law enforcement and the control of crime as the Attorney General deems appropriate.

We look forward to reviewing the Commission's strategic plan for improving the safety in Virginia and every American community and ensuring public safety officers are adequately supported.

SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!

One of the many benefits the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute offers is our scholarship program. This award — which is funded by generous VSI supporters like you — is granted to full-time or part-time students majoring in criminal justice and attending a Virginia state college or university. In fact, we awarded 94 scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year to Virginia's youth.

A link to the scholarship application and a full list of application materials can be found on our website at: <https://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>.

Applications are due May 1, 2020.

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM VSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOHN W. JONES



On behalf of everyone here at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, I hope you and your family are off to a great start in the New Year.

With the prospect of wintry conditions still a possibility, I want to offer tips for winter weather travel and

driving safely in icy conditions. I hope this and other information included in your newsletter is helpful and informative. Please feel free to pass on the newsletter to family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues.

With your continued strong support, VSI will work to promote crime prevention and public safety efforts in your community and all across Virginia. At the same time, we are focused on continuing to bring much-needed attention to improving the working conditions of our hardworking deputy sheriffs and enhancing the criminal justice system to deal with the ever-increasing challenges faced by law enforcement, the courts, and correctional system.

It is my privilege to serve as Executive Director of VSI, and I urge you to contact your sheriff's office if you have any questions about the subjects we discuss in this issue of the VSI newsletter, or if you have any other concerns about crime prevention or public safety efforts in your community.

Thanks for all you do as a loyal supporter of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Jones".

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs' Institute
901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301
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REMIND YOUR REAR VEHICLE PASSENGERS TO BUCKLE UP

New federal data reveals that more than 800 unbuckled rear passengers were killed in car crashes in 2018. More than 400 of those killed may have survived the crashes if they had fastened their seatbelts.



As a reminder, Virginia law requires everyone under the age of 18 to be properly secured in a safety belt or child safety seat no matter where they are sitting in the car. However, Virginia, along with 30 other states, does not require rear belt use for adult passengers.

According to Virginia DMV, seat belt use among rear passengers can reduce the risk of death by 60 percent, and the Centers for Disease Control found that the odds of driver death more than doubled in fatal frontal crashes when there were unrestrained rear-seat passengers. We encourage you to ensure all passengers in your car buckle up.

HOW TO DRIVE ON AN ICY ROAD

Winter weather brings the potential for unpredictable driving conditions in Virginia. To avoid losing control of your car while driving in snow or freezing rain, remember to maintain a safe speed of 45mph or less on highways or interstates.

If you find yourself sliding or fishtailing on an icy road, it means you're driving too fast. Here are a few steps you can take to bring your car under control:

- Don't hit your brakes, which is a common mistake of most drivers. This could make the slide on an icy road worse.
- Turn your wheels in the direction the back of the vehicle is sliding.
- Don't panic and don't overcorrect which could send the car into a faster spin.

We Want to Hear from You ...

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The VSI solicits articles and comments from associate members of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute for inclusion in this newsletter. Articles and comments should be directed to: John W. Jones, Executive Director, Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, 901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or phone (804) 225-7152.