



NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION 2021



John W. Jones

Executive Director

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KNOW THE SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE



2021-2022

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We Want to Hear from You ...

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SIGNS OF ELDER ABUSE



Virginia law enforcement officers are committed to raising awareness and preventing elder abuse in your community and all across the Commonwealth. Elder abuse can include physical, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse, as well as neglect. Sadly, family members and caretakers are often the persons who commit elder abuse.

According to Virginia's Office of the Attorney General, signs of elder abuse and neglect include:

- Burns, welts, scratches, bruises, cuts
- Fractures, dislocations, sprains
- Restrained, tied to bed or chair
- Mistrust of others
- Unsanitary or unsafe housing
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- Malnourished
- Lacks needed supervision
- Untreated medical condition
- Lacks needed dentures, glasses, hearing aids or medication

The National Council on Aging estimates that about five million older Americans are abused each year in the U.S, and the annual loss by victims of financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$36.5 billion.

Each year Virginia sheriff's offices are

contacted about scams that target vulnerable Virginians, including elderly residents. These scams can include everything from banking and home health care to home repair and beauty salons.

Those who are most vulnerable to elder abuse often suffer from memory loss or other communication problems, and are isolated, making it difficult to report abuses. Thanks to the support we receive from VSI members like you, law enforcement officers in Virginia receive training to help enhance officers' ability to identify elder abuse.

VSI sponsors the Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. Business owners and employees, especially, may encounter someone who is experiencing a form of elder abuse, and should be aware of the signs. If you suspect signs of elder abuse, please contact your local Sheriff's Office or the 24-hour, toll-free, Adult Protective Services hotline at: (888) 832-3858.



November 2, 2021 is Election Day, and residents will be able to go to the polls and cast their vote for Virginia's governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and their local House of Delegate representative.

These are important decisions that could have a sweeping impact on the future of law enforcement. We know you care deeply about issues relating to fighting crime and keeping our communities safe, so please ensure your voice is heard by casting your vote on November 2 — either through absentee ballot or at the polling location in your community! To find out your polling location, please visit <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html>.

GET YOUR FLU SHOT THIS YEAR

Protect yourself and the ones you love: Get a flu shot this fall to help lessen your chances of getting the flu and spreading it to others. Even though cases of flu in the U.S. were small last year compared to the previous flu seasons, experts say it's difficult to predict the rate of infection this year.

NOISE ORDINANCE



According to Virginia law, “Any locality may, by ordinance, adopt a uniform schedule of civil penalties for violations of that locality’s noise ordinance. This provision shall not apply to noise generated in connection with the business being performed on industrial property. Civil fines will

not exceed \$250 for the first offense and \$500 for each subsequent offense. The locality may authorize the chief law-enforcement officer to enforce any civil penalties adopted pursuant to the provisions of this section. The provisions of this section shall not apply to railroads. No ordinance of any locality shall apply to sound emanating from any area permitted by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy or any division thereof.”

The most common sources of noise include, but are not limited to:

- Construction activities
- Aircraft
- Loud neighbors
- Traffic
- Leaf blowers and other lawn equipment
- Loud music, “boom cars”
- Sirens, car alarms, horn honking
- Barking dogs and other animals

To file a noise complaint, please call your local non-emergency number.



IT'S ALMOST TIME TO FALL BACK

Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 7. Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier than the day before. The fall and spring clock changes were started by Benjamin Franklin to conserve energy in the evening. While

we gain an hour of morning light, we give up the evening daylight.

While many of us are grateful to receive an extra hour of sleep, it also means that Virginians will be driving in the dark for a longer period of time. Some studies have shown that this may increase the likelihood of car accidents, since more time is spent on the road in the darkness. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the fatality rate per mile of travel is about three times higher at night than during the day. As we all adjust to the upcoming time change, we urge you to remain extra vigilant when driving in the dark. Slow down, leave extra space between you and the vehicle in front of you, and avoid distractions.

Recommendations indicate that individuals get a flu vaccine by the end of October, before flu begins spreading through your community. Protection from the vaccine occurs within two weeks of the vaccination and lasts throughout the flu season. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu shots can be given the same day as other vaccinations.

GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF

Each month, the Virginia Sheriffs' Association is introducing you to a Virginia sheriff. If you've missed previous introductions of our Virginia Sheriffs, links to these posts may be found here on VSA's website: vasheriff.org/news.

We hope you will come to know and appreciate these individuals as much as we do! Our sheriff introductions may also be found on VSA's Facebook page, along with other interesting news items about our member sheriffs!

BONUSES ON THE WAY FOR DEPUTIES

The 2021 General Assembly approved a spending bill that includes bonuses for state supported deputy sheriffs. We are grateful to members of the General Assembly and Governor Northam for approving these critical additional funds that we hope will help improve retention of law enforcement officers in Virginia.

VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

From September 14-16, more than 400 sheriffs, deputies, exhibitors, and guests attended the 2021 Virginia Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Roanoke, Virginia.

Conference attendees benefited from a great program which featured an array of speakers relating to criminal justice, legal issues, and sheriff's office management.

Many thanks to our Associate Members for making our 2021 annual conference a resounding success!



VSI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JOHN W. JONES



On behalf of all of us at the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, I hope you and your family are excited to leave the sweltering heat of this summer behind and enjoy a cooler more comfortable fall in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

To ensure this fall season is a safe and enjoyable one, I have included some practical tips to help

keep you safe as we turn back our clocks one hour on November 7, 2021, as well as information on how to stay one step ahead of scammers who will do just about anything to dupe you out of your personal information and money. I hope you'll find this information valuable.

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

No sheriff's office can operate effectively without the support and cooperation of the people it serves. That is why I am so grateful for your continued support of the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute!

Sincerely,

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs' Institute
901 East Byrd Street, Suite 1301
Richmond, Virginia 23219

BEWARE: JURY DUTY SCAM



As you know, scammers will try anything to gain access to your money and personal information. Recently, some Virginia residents have reported receiving calls from scammers who say they have missed jury duty.

Scammers then claim the resident must pay a monetary fine, which they may pay by buying a gift card. After they purchase the gift card, they are told to call back the scammer and provide the serial number of the gift card.

To offer legitimacy, the scammer claims to be calling from a sheriff's office and appears to be using a local number, but in reality, they are using a spoofing technology that allows them to trick caller ID into displaying false information. Scam artists realize that many people use caller ID and will not pick up calls with unfamiliar area codes or that display "unknown."

As a reminder, no government agency will call you and have you purchase a gift card or send money to settle an issue with the agency. If you receive a suspicious call, hang up. Or if you receive a phone message that seems fishy, do not return the call.

**SHOP TO SUPPORT
VIRGINIA SHERIFFS**

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you are shopping online this holiday season, we hope that you consider supporting the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) through Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile provides a simple, automatic process when checking out to support our dedicated sheriffs and deputies at no additional cost to you.

To participate, go to smile.amazon.com and select the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute as your chosen charity. Every eligible purchase will result in a donation to VSI!

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute 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.