



NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION 2022



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Executive Director

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DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA JAILS





2022-2023

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DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA JAILS

Last May, Discovery+ premiered a documentary series about a drug addiction recovery program in the Chesterfield County Jail. "Jailhouse Redemption" followed Chesterfield County Sheriff Karl Leonard and his team as they introduced a bold new drug addiction recovery program to inmates.

The impetus for the program grew out of Sheriff Leonard's discovery that a staggering 80 percent of men and women who entered his correctional facilities were addicted to heroin. The production crew was given unprecedented access and spent several months filming inside the jail.

Correctional facilities across our state are implementing programs aimed at helping inmates with heroin and other addiction problems. The Newport News Jail is offering inmates a treatment program and is offering new help for follow-up community care, in partnership with the



jail's health care provider.

Last year, Newport News Sheriff Gabe Morgan and his team launched a medication assisted treatment program at the Newport News Jail that offered inmates a shot of medicine that blocks the effects of drugs or alcohol, in combination with counseling. When the inmate leaves the jail, the program continues to provide them with help finding a job and a place to live.

Providing inmates struggling with addiction with these types of resources is an important step to helping them kick their addictions and ensuring when they reenter society, they have the skills they need to keep clean and stay out of jail.

2022 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is pleased to highlight the incredible service of City of Petersburg Sheriff Vanessa Crawford who was awarded this year's "Sheriff of the Year" award. The award was presented at a ceremony held on June 28, 2022 at the National Sheriffs' Association's (NSA) conference held in Kansas City, Missouri.

In 2005, Sheriff Vanessa Crawford was sworn in as the first female sheriff for the City of Petersburg, where she was also born and raised. Sheriff Crawford is currently serving her fifth term as sheriff and is the longest serving elected official in the City of Petersburg. In addition to a distinguished career, Sheriff Crawford has received numerous honors and awards, and was previously appointed by the Governor to serve on the

Criminal Justice Services Board in 2014 and 2017. Sheriff Crawford is married to Leon, a retired military officer and they have five children, 14 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. She also served as a former President of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) and the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI).



Sheriff Crawford was selected from sheriffs who were nominated all across the country. She is the first female and first female of color to be nominated and win in the 27-year history of NSA. Members of Virginia

Sheriffs' Association, Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, sheriffs, deputies, and members of the law enforcement community from across the Commonwealth joined in congratulating Sheriff Crawford on this well-deserved award.



GET OUT AND VOTE

November 8, 2022 is Election Day, and Virginia residents will be able to go to the polls and cast their vote for their U.S. Representative in Congress.

This is an important decision that could have a sweeping impact on the future of law enforcement efforts in Virginia and all across the country. We know you care deeply about issues relating to fighting crime and keeping our communities safe, so please ensure your voice is heard at all levels of government in November.

Be sure to get out and cast your vote on November 8 — either through absentee ballot or at your polling location in your community! To find out what polling location you're assigned to, please visit <https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/index.html>. The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute (VSI) and the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) do not endorse any candidates.

SHOP TO SUPPORT VIRGINIA SHERIFFS

As a reminder, when you shop on Amazon, you can also support the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute. AmazonSmile, a website operated by the Amazon Smile Foundation, provides a simple, automatic process when checking out to support our dedicated sheriffs and deputies at no additional cost to you.

When shopping at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as the Amazon.com website you know, but with the opportunity to request that Amazon donate a portion of the purchase price to VSI.

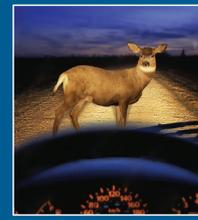
To participate, go to smile.amazon.com and select the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute as your chosen charity — and every eligible purchase will result in a donation to VSI!

VSA ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE RECAP

From September 20-22, more than 500 sheriffs, deputies, exhibitors, and guests attended the 2022 Virginia Sheriffs' Association Annual Conference and Exhibition held in Virginia Beach, 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. It also offered plenty of networking activities available to sheriffs and attendees, and exhibits displayed the latest in services and technology.

Many thanks to our Associate Members for making our 2022 annual conference — our Association's largest annual event — a resounding success.



FALL SAFETY TIPS

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, traffic fatalities reached a 16-year high in 2021, yet, many accidents are preventable. That is why we wanted to remind you of a few things you can do this fall to keep you and your loved ones safe while traveling on Virginia roadways.

Fall brings colder temperatures and falling leaves which can cause slippery conditions. Be sure to plan ahead for wet conditions and take the following preparations before hitting the road:

- Make sure your windshield wipers are in good working condition.
- If driving on a road with excess water, slow down and avoid sudden movements with the steering wheel or brake pedal.
- If you feel like you are floating, steer straight and gently release the gas pedal until you feel the tires make contact with the road surface.
- In an especially heavy downpour you may want to pull off the road until it is safe to continue.

Finally, fall weather means the potential to encounter deer on our roadways. Be vigilant while driving at dawn or dusk, when deer tend to be more active. Use high beams at night to see farther ahead. Finally, slow down and watch for the eye-shine of deer near the edges of roads.

REMINDER: DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Date: October 29, 2022, 10am-2pm

About: This annual event helps residents safely dispose of unused, unwanted, and expired medications at their local law enforcement agencies.

Where: For a list of participating locations, contact your sheriff's office.

Why It is Important: This event helps prevent prescription drug abuse in communities and help keep trace drugs out of our lakes and streams.

SOCIAL MEDIA:



twitter.com/VSIInstitute



www.facebook.com/vasheriffsinstitute

PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM 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 welcome back cooler temperatures and fall foliage to Virginia.

Fall is a wonderful time for Virginians to take in an activity that allows you to enjoy the outdoors, including taking a scenic drive or biking route

to view foliage across the state. To ensure this fall season is a safe and enjoyable one, your newsletter includes some practical tips to help keep you safe while driving on wet and slippery roadways.

I have also provided some information on how you can stay one step ahead of scammers during the upcoming holiday season. As you know, scammers will do just about anything to dupe you out of your personal information and money, so I hope you will 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 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.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs' Institute
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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS POSE DANGERS

Prior to the coronavirus pandemic, 40% of officer deaths were related to domestic violence calls, according to a report issued by the U.S. Department of Justice. In all but one of the cases reviewed, the officer was killed by a gun, and in 35% of the cases, only one law enforcement officer responded to the scene. When law enforcement officers respond to a domestic violence call, they expect to walk into an emotionally charged scene. It can quickly turn deadly for the people who have been abused and for the responding officers.

Law enforcement officers in your community and all across the country receive specialized training on how to respond to these types of calls. This training is focused on approaching a scene carefully and de-escalating these situations to make them safer and to support victims

Domestic violence calls are just one of the many types of dangerous calls your local public safety officers put their lives on the line to respond to every day.

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HOLIDAY SCAMS

To ensure you have a safe and celebratory holiday season, be wary of these common holiday scams: phony selling, fake invoices and bank notifications, lookalike pages, 'your order has been canceled,' and 'renew your membership for the purchases you have made.' To help avoid getting scammed, here are some "best practices" offered by the FBI:

- Do not click on suspicious links or attachments in emails, websites, or social media.
- When buying from a website, check the URL to make sure it is legit and secure. According to the FBI, the website should have "https" in its address.
- Verify the buyer and check feedback ratings.
- Avoid sellers who act as authorized dealers or factory representatives.
- Beware if the seller responds to your questions by saying they are out of the country or away at a family emergency.
- Do not wire money directly and avoid using pre-paid cards.
- Get tracking numbers and follow the delivery process.
- According to the Better Business Bureau, federal law requires that orders be shipped by the date promised and if you don't receive the items on time, you can cancel and demand a refund.