



Newsletter

Fall Edition 2023



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A large background image showing a close-up of a person's hands. The person is wearing metal handcuffs on both wrists. One hand is holding a black pen and writing on a white piece of paper. The other hand is resting on the desk. The person is wearing a dark suit jacket. The background is slightly blurred, showing a wooden desk and some papers.

NEW TELEVISION SERIES SHOWCASES VIRGINIA BEACH DEPUTIES



2023-2024

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Executive Director
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**We Want to
Hear from You ...**



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VIRGINIA BEACH SHERIFF'S OFFICE FEATURED IN NEW SERIES



Recently, Virginia sheriffs and deputies have been featured in streaming and television series that focus on the work they are doing in our state to promote public safety and lower recidivism rates. Just last year, Discovery+ premiered a documentary series about a drug addiction recovery program in the Chesterfield County Jail.

A&E's new series, "Booked: First Day In," which premiered on June 15, 2023, showcases the work of deputies from the Virginia Beach Sheriff's Office. The nonfiction television show provides an exclusive look inside the Virginia Beach jail and answers the question: what happens after someone is arrested?

In addition to featuring the work inside Virginia Beach Correctional Center, the show also takes place inside California's Stanislaus County Detention Center and Florida's Flagler County Inmate Detention Facility. Only arrestees who agreed to be on camera were filmed and appeared on the show.

The deputy sheriffs featured in the show are responsible for the safety and security of every person brought into the Virginia Beach Correctional Center, totaling more than 11,000 arrests last year. Deputies search arrestees for drugs, weapons, and other contraband. They also take fingerprints, take mugshots, and outfit them in jail jumpsuits.

It is clear the public has an interest in understanding the work of sheriffs and deputies in our state and hopefully shining a spotlight on these activities will elicit a greater degree of appreciation for the work of all Virginia's officers.

2023 SHERIFF OF THE YEAR

The Virginia Sheriffs' Institute is pleased to highlight the incredible service of **Loudoun County Sheriff Mike Chapman** who was awarded this year's "Sheriff of the Year" award. The award was presented at a ceremony held on June 27, 2023, at the National Sheriffs' Association's (NSA) conference held in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Chapman has been the Sheriff of Loudoun County since 2012 and is serving his third term. He directs the operations of the largest full-service sheriff's office in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including law enforcement, the jail, and the courts, and manages a \$115M annual budget.

In 2022, Chapman was appointed to Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services Board by Gov. Glenn Youngkin and named Region VI Director for the Virginia Sheriffs' Association Board

of Directors. He also serves as Vice President of Homeland Security for the Major County Sheriffs of America and as Chair of the Washington Baltimore High Intensity Trafficking Area Executive Board.

Chapman has spent more than 40 years in law enforcement, including work for the Howard County, Maryland, Police Department, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and as a Subject Matter Expert on the Global Security/Law Enforcement team at Booz Allen and Hamilton. Members of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association, Virginia Sheriffs' Institute, sheriffs, deputies, and members of the law enforcement community from across the Commonwealth joined in congratulating Sheriff Chapman.



PEDESTRIAN DEATHS ROSE 70%

Since 2010, the number of pedestrian deaths on U.S. roadways has increased by more than 70 percent. One factor cited for the stark increase in pedestrian deaths is that more drivers are purchasing and leasing light utility trucks. People want to feel safer while driving so in recent years they have gravitated to larger cars. By 2021, nearly 80 percent of sales and leases were trucks. Trucks now outnumber cars in every state.

Given the height and heft of trucks, pedestrians struck by trucks are more likely to die when compared to being hit by a car. In addition, more of these deaths are happening outside of cities in the suburbs.

It is important for drivers to remain extra vigilant behind the wheel given the risks for pedestrians and cyclists on our roadways. Driving within the speed limit, avoiding your phone, and being aware of your blind spots are several things you can do as a driver of a sport utility vehicle or truck to keep pedestrians safe.

VIRGINIA SEES 5.6% INCREASE IN VIOLENT CRIME

A recent report on crime figures in our state shows a 5.6 percent increase in violent crime in 2022. The “Crime in Virginia” report breaks down the crime rates in towns, cities, and counties across the Commonwealth.

Specifically, the report showed there were 20,549 violent crime offenses reported in 2022 compared to 17,654 violent crime offenses reported in 2021. Reported homicides increased from 562 to 621. Victims and offenders tended to be younger males. Slightly over half of all homicides occurred at a residence or home.

Motor vehicle thefts and attempted thefts saw a 21.9 percent jump compared to 2021. Of all the motor vehicles stolen, 33.9 percent were taken from a home or residence.

Drug arrests increased 8.8 percent, and the number of arrestees under 18 years of age also increased. Burglaries and fraud offenses also saw an increase from 2021 to 2022. Hate crimes saw a 48 percent increase compared to 2021.

The Virginia State Police serves as the primary collector of crime data from participating Virginia state and local police departments and sheriff’s offices.



TIPS FOR A SAFE AND SANE HOLIDAY SEASON

The holidays are right around the corner. Do you have a plan to stay safe and sane during this busy time of year?

Virginia's Drive Smart campaign offers some great tips for how you and your family can get home safely after holiday celebrations and stay stress-free. Here are a few of the tips we hope you will keep in mind when you are driving or out shopping in the weeks ahead:

- Plan ahead if you are heading out to a holiday party. Designate a friend or family member as the designated driver or be prepared to use a ride-sharing app like Uber or Lyft to get you home safely.
- Avoid distracted driving. As you know, it is illegal to have a phone in your hand while driving in Virginia.
- Remember to drive within the speed limit, especially in icy or snowy conditions, and wear your seatbelt.
- Beware of holiday shoppers, especially other drivers and pedestrians in parking lots. Be cautious when backing out of your parking spot. Virginia law requires drivers to stop at occupied crosswalks and allow pedestrians to cross.
- Slow down and move over when you see flashing lights on the side of the road to ensure the safety of law enforcement and emergency vehicle workers.



GET OUT AND VOTE! Elections for the state delegates and senators, who are instrumental in decision-making on funding public safety efforts in Virginia — as well as the election for county sheriffs [variable]— will take place on **November 7, 2023.**

All 140 seats of the Virginia General Assembly are up for election this year. Please be sure to get out and cast your vote — 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/>.

A 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 the Commonwealth of Virginia after a hot summer.

As you know, fall in Virginia is a wonderful time for citizens to take in an activity that allows

us to enjoy the outdoors, including taking a scenic drive or biking route to view foliage across our state. I encourage you to enjoy these waning weeks of moderate and comfortable temperatures before winter makes us retreat indoors.

While the official start of the holiday season is yet upon us, I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday. I hope you will keep in mind some of the tips we provide in this newsletter to help you stay safe and stress-free as we approach this joyous and busy time of year.

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 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 on a light-colored background.

John W. Jones, Executive Director
Virginia Sheriffs' Institute
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VSA APPLAUDS GOVERNOR YOUNGKIN'S MENTAL HEALTH PLAN



There are thousands of Virginians who are currently living with a mental illness. Unfortunately, Virginia's current mental health system

is overwhelmed and failing to meet the needs of Virginians who are suffering from mental health illnesses.

In response to this growing crisis which has put an enormous strain on law enforcement and first responders, Governor Glenn Youngkin released a three-year plan to transform Virginia's behavioral health system.

Among the six pillars outlined by the governor in his "Right Help, Right Now" initiative is Pillar #2: Relieving the law enforcement community's burden and reducing the criminalization of mental health. VSI applauds the governor's efforts to ensure Virginia sheriffs and deputy sheriffs have the resources and training they need to help address the mental health crisis in our state.

The Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA) supports Governor Glenn Youngkin's "Right Help, Right Now" plan, aimed at strengthening behavioral health services for Virginians, reducing the burden on law enforcement and enhancing the behavioral health workforce.

Twenty-four bills were signed as part of this plan. According to VSA's Executive Director John W. Jones:

"The Virginia Sheriffs' Association applauds the Governor of Virginia in signing into law a slate of bills that will help individuals in mental health crisis get urgent help and will begin to ease the extraordinary burden on law enforcement by the current mental health system. These bills signed by Governor Youngkin are an excellent start toward providing urgent mental health care and a refocus of law enforcement to their primary duties of community safety."

Law enforcement officers often have contact with people who show signs of a mental health disorder. These encounters can quickly escalate. To ensure the safety of everyone in these situations, Virginia's law enforcement officers receive training, including de-escalation tactics, to help improve the outcomes of these interactions with people showing signs of mental health illnesses.

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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.