Annual Report

Calendar Year 2007

The Fredericksburg Police Department

Fredericksburg Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT – CALENDAR YEAR 2007

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A Message from the Chief

Productive and full of changes, the year 2007 was highlighted by improvements that exemplify our goal at the Police Department of *relentless forward progress*. Most notable among the changes was our move in July to our new Headquarters located at 2200 Cowan Boulevard. This accomplishment reunited the three divisions of the department under one roof for the first time in over twenty years and clearly demonstrated the commitment of the City of Fredericksburg to public safety. Another achievement of which we can be very proud is the implementation of *autoChalk* to address the long-standing parking problems in the historic district. As the first locality in the nation to apply this innovative technology, Fredericksburg has proven itself to be a small city with very big ideas.

In addition to growing by square footage, the department has expanded the concepts of recruiting, community policing, and domestic violence intervention, all through the use of grants from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and other federal funding sources. With the aim of attracting a highly qualified and diverse pool of applicants, a new recruiting brochure was designed and developed in conjunction with the launch of a contemporary department website. Grant funds allowed for the expansion of community policing into the Fall Hill Avenue corridor and additionally provided for much-needed Spanish translation services to City residents who require them. And 2007 saw the creation of a Domestic Violence Unit, made up of a seasoned officer reassigned to the Detective Division and a civilian victim's advocate, who together work to eradicate the causes and provide support to the victims of domestic violence.

In conjunction with national efforts to augment emergency preparedness for natural and man-made disasters at every level, the police department has engaged in training to prepare all of our supervisors for Incident Command; additionally, scenario exercises for the Special Equipment and Tactical Team, Tactical Emergency Medical Services unit, and Crisis Negotiation Team are a regular part of the department's schedule. A DCJS grant funded the upgrade of our radio equipment to allow for three fully functional channels and interoperability with the radio frequencies of surrounding agencies, in the event of an emergency requiring a multi-jurisdictional response. And yet another grant provided for redundant 911 trunk lines into the Communications Center to ensure that critical means of contact remain available to the public even with unforeseen equipment failure.

With the tragedy at Virginia Tech this year as a frightening catalyst, the tactical teams and commanders participated in practical training on the campus of the University of Mary Washington as well as other possible scenes of violence. To further address the issue of school safety, a link was established between the cameras at James Monroe High School and a monitor in the 911 Center; we additionally have the capability to establish a connection with a mobile computer in one of the patrol vehicles.

Chief David W. Nye

Furthering our efforts to modernize law enforcement techniques, the Police Department added crime analysis software and through staff reorganization created the position of crime analyst to our available resources in order to study the prevailing tendencies in criminal activity. The numbers indicated in this year's report will be subjected to comparative analysis in the future and will be instrumental in developing a strategy to most effectively deploy department resources.

In 2007, the police department has continued to move forward with our advancement towards national accreditation with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) by completing the new directives manual and making adjustments to policy in order to comply with CALEA standards. The CALEA accreditation process is a proven modern management model that provides a blueprint to promote the efficient use of resources and to improve the delivery of service to the community. And in 2008, we will continue to strive toward our goal of exemplary professional law enforcement.

The most important element contributing to the success of the Fredericksburg Police Department are the men and women who fill all of the critical staff positions. From the 911 Center to Support Services personnel, from the patrol officers on the street to the plain-clothes detectives, from the newest recruit to the most veteran commander, the department is made up of dedicated professionals whose mission is to SERVE, PROTECT, AND INSPIRE.

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Officers Barry Taylor and Jeff Wood, members of the Honor Guard, during the 2007 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the new Police Headquarters.

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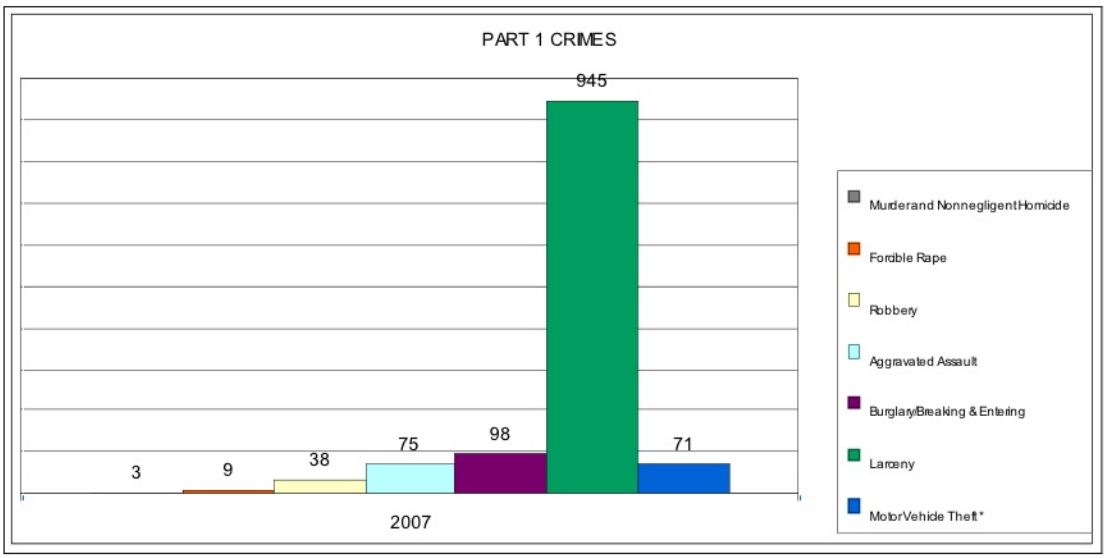
Aerial shot of downtown Fredericksburg and the Rappahannock River. Courtesy of Elizabeth Shotwell.

Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the accomplishments and attained objectives of the Fredericksburg Police Department in 2007. The Police Department serves a resident population of approximately 20,000 within a geographical area of 11 square miles, and the City of Fredericksburg is located equidistant between Washington, D.C. and Richmond, Virginia. Surrounded by two of the fastest growing counties in the Commonwealth while also possessing a wealth of historical association, Fredericksburg represents the dichotomy of change and development within a region that cherishes its heritage.

Crime Analysis

In 2007, the position of crime analyst was created by converting the responsibilities of an administrative staff member in the Support Services Division. Additionally, a DCJS grant funded software to aid in tracking crime trends and analyzing data associated with criminal activity. This information will be instrumental in developing a strategy to most effectively deploy the resources of the Police Department, as well as in determining the projected needs for the future.



The following is a breakdown of the major crimes in Fredericksburg in 2007:

Homicide

Of the three homicides which occurred in 2007, two were closed with arrests on the same day the victims were discovered. On March 22 at 4:20 pm at 1112 Caroline Street, 37-year-old Mark Holmes of Fredericksburg was found deceased at the bottom of a flight of stairs. The investigation determined that Holmes had been drinking with a friend the night before and became involved in a verbal altercation. During the argument, the friend pushed Holmes down the stairs, where he lay until the following afternoon. The suspect was found walking in the 600 block of Caroline Street and arrested without incident. Benjamin Rivera, 48, of no fixed address was arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

On July 11 at 10:45 am at 622 Kenmore Avenue, 43-year-old James Augstell of Fredericksburg was found deceased lying on the couch in his living room. The investigation determined that Augstell had been involved in a domestic dispute the night before with his long-time girlfriend and during the argument he was struck in the back of the head with a block of wood. Cindy Hughes, 45, of Fredericksburg was arrested and charged with second degree murder.

On July 28 at 11:45 pm at the Forest Village Apartments, 24-year-old Marlo McQuillar of Fredericksburg was found unresponsive in the parking lot and suffering from multiple gunshot wounds. McQuillar died in the ambulance prior to being transported to the hospital despite life-saving measures begun within four minutes of his discovery. Witnesses reported hearing several gunshots in the vicinity; they also saw three black males running to a white vehicle which fled from the scene. This case is actively being investigated.

Rape

Of the nine rapes reported in 2007, all of the offenders were acquaintances of the victims prior to the assault. While a previous connection between the offender and victim in no way lessens the severity of this horrible crime, the lack of random attacks in this category does highlight the overall safety of the City of Fredericksburg. There were no reports of rapes committed by strangers or unknown suspects.

Robbery

Of the 38 robberies reported in 2007, 31 were committed in commercial establishments and seven were of victims in residential areas. The following summarizes three notable cases and/or suspect(s).

On May 20 at 10:30 pm, the CVS pharmacy at 591 Jefferson Davis Highway was robbed of cash and prescription narcotics by a young man wearing a hat, fake hair, and clown-like face paint. On July 26, Ricky Kiser, 23, of Woodbridge was arrested and charged with robbery.

On August 9 at 2:40 pm, the BB&T Bank located at 401 Jefferson Davis Highway was robbed by a male subject who implied a weapon and demanded cash from the teller. The suspect left the scene in a blue Honda Civic driven by another subject; the suspect vehicle was found approximately an hour later on Gates Street. Daniel Graves, 46, of Fredericksburg was arrested and charged with bank robbery, conspiracy to commit a felony, and possession of narcotics. Graves' accomplice was later arrested on August 16. Larry Reeves, 38, of Fredericksburg was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit a felony and being a principal after the fact.

Two Fredericksburg residents were arrested in Fairfax County on November 21 and charged in charged in connection with eleven different crimes, including four that occurred in the City. Adam Blain, 31, and Thomas Brown, 33, were both involved in the following robberies:

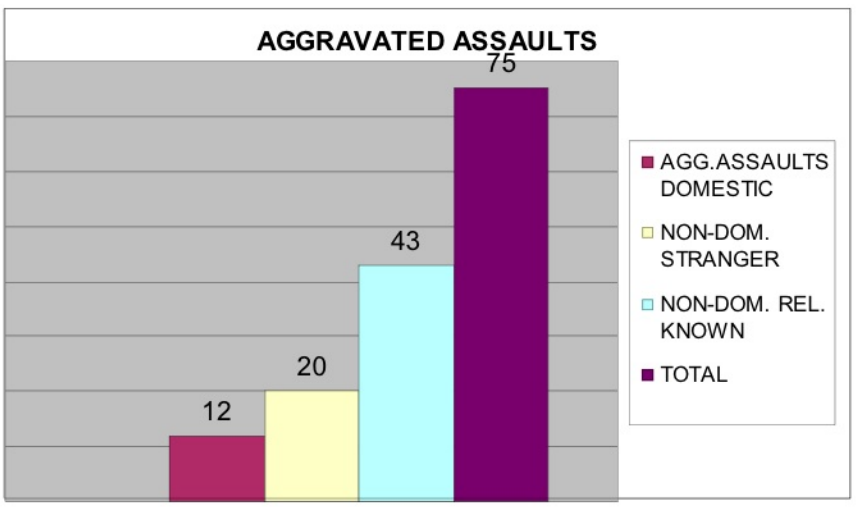
- November 6, Pure Service Station, 1600 Princess Anne Street
- November 7, Best Western Motel, 2205 Plank Road
- November 8, Dunkin Donuts, 533 Jefferson Davis Highway
- November 10, CVS, 591 Jefferson Davis Highway

Burglary

Of the 98 burglaries and breaking and entering reports in 2007, half of them were committed at residences, with the remainder occurring on commercial properties. Twenty-six of the cases were cleared with arrests, including one subject who was indicted for four separate incidents in September and October.

Aggravated Assault

Of the 75 reports of aggravated assault in 2007, twenty of the incidents involved assailants who were strangers to the victim. The remainder involved parties in a domestic relationship (i.e. have a child in common and/or live together) or were between a victim and offender who were otherwise known to each other. Of this latter category, the incidents most commonly occurred in or around a bar or nightclub.



Larceny

By far the largest category of crime, there were 945 reports of larcenies in 2007. Not surprisingly given the vast number of retail establishments in the City, there were 259 shoplifting reports compared to 189 thefts from motor vehicles and 112 thefts from buildings such as offices. There were only three reports each of purse snatchings and pocket picking.

Motor Vehicle Larceny

There were 71 reports of vehicles stolen or taken for unauthorized use in 2007.

New Headquarters

On September 11 at 5:00 pm, the Fredericksburg Police Department celebrated the long-awaited completion of its new headquarters located at 2200 Cowan Blvd with a ribbon cutting ceremony. Speakers included Chief of Police David Nye, City Manager Phil Rodenberg, and Mayor Thomas Tomzak, M.D. The ceremony also included a moment of silence in remembrance and honor of the victims of 9/11, over sixty of whom were law enforcement officers who gave their lives in the service of their duties.

Preliminary planning for the headquarters project began in 2003 when the Fredericksburg School Board authorized the use of a 16 acre tract adjacent to Hugh Mercer Elementary School. In November 2004, the City received a proposal from First Choice Public/Private Partners to design and construct a new facility on the site.

Construction began in January 2006 and the police department moved into the new building in July of 2007. The facility is almost 35,000 square feet and addresses the space requirements of the agency for a projected fifteen years. The total project cost was 12.4 million dollars.

Most importantly, the move into the new quarters reunited the three divisions of the department under one roof. The Patrol Division, Detective Division, and Records Section had previously been housed in three separate downtown buildings which hampered the department's efficiency and ability to best serve the public. The 911 communications center has also been greatly expanded and equipped with the most modern technology to provide the optimum response to the citizens of Fredericksburg in the event of an emergency.

Aerial shot of the new Police Headquarters.
Courtesy of Elizabeth Shotwell.

"Fredericksburg's city leaders have proven that public safety is one of their highest priorities", said Chief David Nye.

AUTOCHALK

On July 9, the City of Fredericksburg implemented new technology called *autoChalk* to encourage our residents and visitors to obey the time-zone parking restrictions in the downtown district. Fredericksburg is the first locality in the nation to apply this innovative technology.

autoChalk, developed by Tannery Creek Systems of Ontario, Canada, is a vehicle-mounted system that employs a digital camera, GPS, and a computer that records images of parked vehicles as the Parking Enforcement Officer (PEO) drives down the street at the posted speed limit. When the PEO returns after the time limit expires and records the vehicle images again, *autoChalk* alerts the officer to possible violators. At police headquarters, the PEO verifies on a computer monitor that the violations detected by *autoChalk* are accurate, and the system generates a ticket based on registration information supplied by DMV.

AUTOCHALK VEHICLE

Said Chief David Nye: "The deployment of *autoChalk* offers considerable time-saving benefits as the system only takes about twenty minutes to cover an area downtown that requires one and a half hours using the 'walk and chalk' method. This will allow the police department to enforce parking restrictions in other under-served locations in the City."

The goal of time-limit parking is to generate turnover of the parking space, which is crucial for successful commerce in the downtown district. The City has been encouraged by the Downtown Retail Merchants, Incorporated (DRMI) and other stakeholders to pursue more aggressive enforcement of on-street parking regulations. And while the police department formerly received on average two letters of complaint every week from recipients of the hand-written tickets, the number of complaints has significantly decreased since the implementation of *autoChalk* with its nearly incontrovertible photographic documentation.

During the first month after the system became operational, all violators detected by *autoChalk* were exempt from fines and received an explanatory warning notice with a map detailing the location of the free downtown parking lots and the city-owned parking garage. On August 1, the system officially began issuing citations which coincided with a newly mandated protocol of escalating fines.

Explanation of Fines

- The first violation, and subsequent violations within ten days of the first, will receive a warning notice advising the violator of a parking infraction.
- Following the ten day "grace period" that begins upon initial violation, the fine for the next two infractions will be $15.00 for each citation issued.
- After two infractions at $15.00 each, the fine for the next two infractions will be $25.00 for each citation issued.
- After two infractions at $25.00 each, the fine for subsequent infractions will be $45.00 for each citation issued.
- After six months from the date of the first infraction, the escalating fines can be reset to $0.00 (warning notice) if the vehicle has not been issued a time-zone parking citation within the previous twelve weeks.
- All time-zone violations detected by *manual* parking enforcement will be $15.00 for each citation issued.

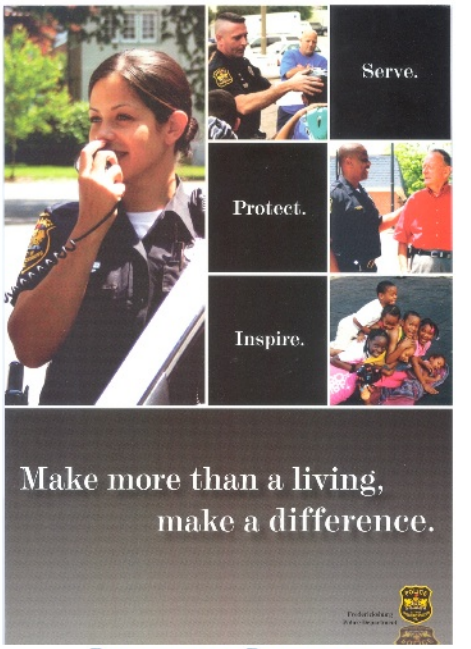
The below chart demonstrates that the overwhelming majority of tickets issued by *autoChalk* are warnings, indicating that the goal of compliance with the time-zone parking restrictions is being met.

autoChalk Monthly Ticket Issuance						
	Aug.	**Sept.**	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**	**TOTAL**
Warnings Issued	489	299	325	338	265	1716
$15 Tickets	36	59	88	87	84	354
$25 Tickets	5	19	26	29	37	116
$45 Tickets	3	16	26	44	37	126
TOTAL	**533**	**393**	**465**	**498**	**423**	**2312**
Handwritten Monthly Ticket Issuance*						
	Aug.	**Sept.**	**Oct.**	**Nov.**	**Dec.**	**TOTAL**
Warnings Issued	N/A	4	3	5	7	19
$15 Tickets	N/A	160	159	153	192	664
$25 Tickets	N/A	480	345	350	169	1344
$40 Tickets	N/A	43	34	36	48	161
$100 Tickets	N/A	8	12	12	18	50
TOTAL	**435**	**695**	**553**	**556**	**434**	**2238**
GRAND TOTAL	**968**	**1088**	**1018**	**1054**	**857**	**4550**

*Handwritten tickets in August were not manually sorted by fine amount.

Recruiting

The recruiting efforts in 2007 were completely revised with a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). This grant enabled the department to fund a newly designed recruiting brochure, printed in both English and Spanish, with the aim of attracting a highly qualified and diverse pool of applicants. Advertising for open positions also followed a new direction, with more emphasis on media that targets a young and college-educated audience. Law enforcement relies more and more on technology, the concepts embraced by community policing and community involvement, and a willingness to adapt to the changing demographics of the environment; the recruiting model reflects the need to tailor the applicant pool to meet these requirements.



Recruitment Brochure

Along similar lines, the DCJS grant additionally funded the design and construction of a new website for the police department. The website allows greater access and accessibility to the department through the availability of online documents and interactive communication. All employment applications can be printed from the site, and the public can receive facts about the organization of the department as well as daily crime summaries, press releases, and links to related information. The Police Department website can be accessed at www.fredericksburgva.gov/fredpd.

Community Policing

The Fredericksburg Police Department was awarded $80,000 through the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services in order to expand community policing to the Fall Hill Avenue corridor. The funding was awarded as part of the Byrne Memorial Grant aimed at reducing crime and delinquency in immigrant and minority communities. The grant provides for a Spanish speaking community police officer to be assigned full-time to Central Park Town Homes, Heritage Park Apartments, Crestview Apartments, and Fall Hill Apartments. The Police Department also devoted a second full-time community police officer to the area whose position is not grant-funded. Officers Carlos Reyes and Ken Camp were designated as the community police officers for these neighborhoods and began their assignment on February 24.

In addition to establishing community policing, the grant funds part-time civilian translators to assist officers who encounter a language barrier when providing police services. "I am excited about this opportunity to strengthen ties between the Police Department and the residents living in the Fall Hill Avenue corridor," said Police Chief David Nye.

The Police Department began a community policing initiative when Sergeant Jim Kuebler and Officer Ron Swaney were assigned full-time to Hazel Hill, Darbytown, and Mayfield in July 2006. This program was made possible with a $50,000 grant from the National Housing Trust as part of the revitalization of Hazel Hill. NHT has pledged an additional $40,000 to support community policing in Hazel Hill for Fiscal Year 2008. Community police officers strive to become members of their assigned neighborhoods and tailor police services to meet the needs of the residents. The goal of community policing is to empower neighborhoods by developing lasting solutions to the problems that cause crime and the fear of crime.

OFFICERS SWANEY AND REYES INTERACT WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit began operating in January 2007 after the police department received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Violence Against Women. The Unit is comprised of Detective Julie Keene, a twenty-year veteran officer, and Ms. Elizabeth Zins, a victim's advocate who comes to the position with over ten years experience in the field. The goals of the Unit include ensuring victim safety, providing access to resources, and furnishing ongoing support and counseling. Because domestic violence is too often unrecognized and unreported, a primary objective is to have contact with ***every*** victim of domestic violence in the city of Fredericksburg.

Police officers who respond to incidents involving domestic disputes refer the family members to the Domestic Violence Unit for follow-up action and additional investigation if necessary. Donated cameras from the local Wal-Mart store were provided to police officers on the street in order to document victims' injuries and enable a higher rate of conviction in court. This evidence collection provides an important tool to record the scope of domestic violence in the community, and may persuade victims who might otherwise decline to prosecute to follow through with legal proceedings against their abusers.

Domestic Violence Cases - 2007												
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Violent	26	23	32	25	23	25	19	19	18	15	14	239
Non-Violent	19	15	22	34	6	11	19	27	29	37	29	248
TOTAL	45	38	54	59	29	36	38	46	47	52	29	487

Tactical Training

The Special Equipment Tactical Team (SETT) is an integral part of the Police Department. The primary assignment of SETT is the entry into and securing of buildings during drug raids or the execution of high-risk warrants in anticipation of violence. The team also responds to hostage or barricade situations.

The team is comprised of specially trained and qualified police officers. All SETT duties are undertaken in addition to the officers' primary duties.

SETT members participate in monthly training and have engaged in focused scenarios designed to test their readiness for "active shooting" incidents, such as have occurred at various school campuses around the country. SETT is outfitted with tactical equipment and weapons to enable them to successfully complete their mission.

Members of SETT train on the campus of the University of Mary Washington .

Members of SETT with the Special Operations van.

Attached to SETT is a unit comprised of members of the Fredericksburg Fire Department who are trained as Tactical Emergency Medical Service providers (TEMS). The primary purpose of TEMS is to provide medical treatment to SETT should a member become injured during an operation. TEMS also provides emergency attention to victims of violence who may be rescued during a SETT operation, and are the first critical element in the continuum of care where time is an essential factor in life-saving efforts.

The Fredericksburg Police Department also maintains a Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) which is made up of ten individuals, eight sworn and two civilian personnel, who are trained and equipped to respond to hostage and barricade situations. The team specializes in using proven negotiation tactics to confront individuals in stronghold positions, which is generally classified as any instance where an individual is armed with a weapon and threatening his own life and/or the lives of others and where it is determined that approaching the subject physically would present an undue danger to his officers as well as to the citizens and suspect(s) involved. Once this determination is made, both the CNT and SETT are jointly activated.

Members of the TEMS attend to a victim during a training exercise (top). Members of CNT train for a hostage scenario (bottom).

Upon arrival, the CNT attempts to establish verbal contact with the suspect(s) and talk the situation through to a peaceful resolution. This is done using a variety of techniques gleaned from formal training with the FBI's prestigious Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU) based out of Quantico, Virginia. Each member of the Fredericksburg Police Department's CNT must complete an intensive week-long training program with FBI CNU instructors and then continue their education, training, and practice throughout their careers. The Fredericksburg CNT trains regularly with the Special Equipment and Tactical Team using role players and real-life scenarios. During actual crisis events, both teams deploy and work in unison under a single command in order to exact the most peaceful resolution possible for all parties involved.

Drug K-9

The police department has a new recruit who has already proven her worth. "Selena" is a 2 ½ year old Belgian Malinois that was given to the department by the U.S. Customs Agency. Selena attended a school with U.S. Customs, and then she and her handler, Veteran Police Officer Jeff Wood, graduated from a nine-week narcotics detection school with a retired Master Trainer from the Virginia State Police. Officer Wood and Selena have formed an excellent working partnership. Just since May 16th, Selena's first day on the job, she has had 57 positive "hits" for narcotics on calls for service in Fredericksburg and while assisting the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, the Virginia State Police, and other regional law enforcement agencies. On another call, Selena was used to coax a mentally unstable person out of a vehicle because he wanted to pet her.

Officer Jeff Wood and K-9 Selena.

Looking Ahead

Even as the City plans for a budget shortfall in 2008, the Police Department will continue to provide exceptional service to the community through proven strategies of professional law enforcement. A primary objective is to meet the requirements of the next phase in the CALEA accreditation process, by assembling a record of proofs to document that the standards adopted in 2007 are followed and verified. There will be on-going Incident Command exercises to enhance the agency's emergency preparedness, as well as situation training for "active shooter" events to mitigate the effects of such a scenario should it occur. And in 2008 our agency will be joining the grant-funded Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX), a data repository that allows multiple departments to share and access suspect and arrest information. The Fredericksburg Police Department is resolved to facing the challenges of today while always preparing for the needs of tomorrow.