



November 2021

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

On behalf of all of us at the Arlington County Police Department, we wish you a happy and joyous holiday season! We are very fortunate to have a supportive community and appreciate everyone who donated during our *Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive* events to ensure the season was bright for children in need. Your generosity captures the spirit of the holiday season and the character of our community.

As we celebrate the most wonderful time of the year, it's also important to keep safety in mind. We have a number of [crime prevention resources](#) on our website to include [holiday shopping safety tips](#), [avoiding donation scams](#) and [preventing package thefts](#). We encourage you to familiarize yourself with these tips and if you find that you're in need law enforcement assistance, rest assured officers are always on duty and prepared to respond.

As we pause to look back at 2021, I want to take a moment to sincerely thank the men and women of the ACPD for their dedicated service. The success of our agency is a direct result of their constant professionalism and commitment to the safety and well-being of the residents, visitors and businesses of Arlington County. I am proud of all they do to make ACPD the high-quality agency that it is. Looking to the new year, we will continue our commitment to advancing best practices in law enforcement through programs and initiatives that support 21st century policing while engaging with the community to continue making ACPD the very best it can be.

Happy Holidays!

Andy Penn

Chief of Police



ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- The Office of Professional Responsibility investigated four personnel complaints in the month of November.
- The Department received a total of 16 personnel commendations, to include four community letters, six community emails, four commendations from other County agencies and two from other law enforcement agencies.
- Personnel completed 14,279.5 hours of training in November. Highlights of training topics include, but are not limited to, Community Policing Defined, Improving Police Efficacy and Building Trust, and Fighting Fentanyl. These training hours also include the completion of the Field Training Program by Officers of [Session 144 of the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy](#). These officers have now completed their training cycle and are on solo patrol in the County.
- There were two applications of Narcan by officers for obvious narcotics overdoses prior to the arrival of medics on scene.
- There was one application of Tactical Emergency Casualty Care (TECC) by officers prior to the arrival of medics on scene.

INTERNAL AGENCY UPDATES

- Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted on November 21st:
 - **Rank of Lieutenant:** A. Nucelli
 - **Rank of Sergeant:** L. Mason and T. Clifford
- On November 1st, the Optimist Club presented Officer Velez with the Respect of Law Program award for her years of making positive impacts on the lives of youth in Arlington through trust building, safety education and being a positive role model. Congratulations to Officer Velez on this well-deserved recognition for her dedication and commitment to our community!
- In November, Lt. Chavis graduated from the Southern Police Institute's (SPI) 146th Administrative Officers Course at the University of Louisville. She was the recipient of two prestigious awards: for the highest GPA, Lt. Chavis was recognized as the valedictorian and received the Dr. William Walsh Director's Award for Academic Excellence, and for her demonstrated leadership and commitment to the shared goals and objectives of the SPI, she was recognized with the B. Edwards Campbell Award for Outstanding Service. Congratulations, Lt. Chavis!
- In November, MPO Roeseler graduated from the Virginia Forensic Science Academy.

CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL – CRIME DATA

ARREST DATA ¹

| Month | 2019 | | | 2020 ³ | | | 2021 | | |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|-------------------|----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Adult | Juvenile | Total | Adult | Juvenile | Total | Adult | Juvenile | Total |
| November | 287 | 24 | 311 | 175 | 2 | 177 | 191 | 9 | 200 |
| Total (YTD) | 3,034 | 278 | 3,312 | 2,406 | 147 | 2,553 | 2,344 | 54 | 2,398 |

OFFENSE DATA ²

| November | 2019 | 2020 ³ | 2021 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| All Cases | 1,039 | 938 | 1,180 |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 6 | 7 | 12 |
| Aggravated Assault | 16 | 20 | 13 |
| Simple Assault | 65 | 54 | 103 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 11 | 12 | 37 |
| Burglary | 3 | 14 | 20 |
| Trespass | 52 | 26 | 38 |
| Larceny from Auto | 69 | 66 | 83 |
| Other Larceny | 220 | 157 | 179 |
| Vandalism | 90 | 59 | 119 |
| Sexual Assault | 15 | 18 | 12 |
| Weapons Offenses | 7 | 12 | 14 |
| Substance-Related Offense | 191 | 111 | 53 |

¹ Arrest month refers to the arrest date, not the date of the offense leading to the arrest. All counts refer to the number of individuals arrested, not the number of charges levied. This is a highlight of common offenses and is not inclusive of every criminal incident investigated by the Department.

² Offense data includes both primary and additional offenses associated with a single case number. All data is preliminary and subject to change based upon follow-up investigations. Offenses determined to be unfounded through investigation are not included. The 13 listed case types do not reflect all incidents reported and/or the total number of cases in the month.

³ Monthly data for CY 2020 is reflective of impacts during COVID-19 closures. As a result, three years' worth of data has been added to this report to allow for a multi-year comparison.

CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The Police Department works diligently to provide high quality service to the community through the successful investigation of criminal offenses occurring in Arlington County. Below are some of the notable investigations undertaken during the month of November in support of the Department's key initiative of Crime Prevention and Control. Additional investigative information can be found in the [Police News & Crime Reports](#), [Online Crime Map](#) and [Open Data Portal](#).

NARCOTICS COURT VERDICTS & SENTENCING, Arlington Detectives, working in collaboration with our local and federal law enforcement partners, assisted with the following narcotics investigations. These cases were prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia.

- On November 4th, the accused, Kibruysday Degefa, was [convicted](#) of conspiracy, possession, and distribution of fentanyl and Eutylone, and being a felon in possession of a firearm during drug trafficking
- On November 16th, the accused, Cody Alexander, pled guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute five (5) or more kilograms of crystal methamphetamine
- On November 16th, the accused, Thomas Minnehan, pled guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute five (5) or more kilograms of crystal methamphetamine and armed trafficking
- On November 17th, the accused, Taurean Venable, pled guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute 400 grams or more of fentanyl
- On November 19th, the accused, Mitchel Harvey, pled guilty to federal drug trafficking charges and admitted to receiving a total of approximately 30 pounds of crystal methamphetamine in the mail over a year

CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL – INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

NARCOTICS VIOLATION, 2021-05010006, 18th Street S. at S. Eads Street. On May 1st, patrol officers conducted a traffic stop that resulted in the seizure of suspected crystal methamphetamine. The driver was arrested, and information obtained during the investigation assisted an active federal narcotics investigation. In November, the supplier of the crystal methamphetamine was arrested, and a search warrant was executed, resulting in the recovery of additional narcotics, firearms and cash.

NARCOTICS VIOLATION, 2021-11050159, 2nd Street S. at S. Courthouse Road. Detectives initiated an investigation after learning two wanted subjects were allegedly distributing controlled substances in Arlington. On November 5th, the subjects were observed entering a vehicle and officers initiated a traffic stop. The subjects fled and Virginia State Police pursued the vehicle before the subjects bailed out and fled on foot. Both were ultimately taken into custody and a gram of fentanyl was recovered along with drug paraphernalia and fraudulent identifications.

NARCOTICS VIOLATION, 2021-11280119, 1700 block of Richmond Highway. On November 28th, officers were dispatched to the report of a disorderly subject. Officers made contact with the visibly intoxicated subject who was uncooperative and struck an officer. He was placed under arrest and while at booking, lost consciousness. Officers immediately rendered aid and administered Narcan prior to the arrival of medics. The subject was revived and transported to an area hospital for medical treatment. Once medically cleared, he was taken back to booking and processed.

GANG PARTICIPATION, 2021-09280113, 6000 block of Wilson Boulevard. In September, the Gang Unit initiated an investigation into gang graffitiing spray painted along several trees. During the course of the investigation, detectives identified suspects in the case. In November, detectives made contact with one of the outstanding suspects who was also wanted out of Fairfax County. He was arrested and charged.

STOLEN VEHICLE, 2021-11110213, Shirlington Road at Four Mile Run Drive. On November 11th, a patrol officer observed a vehicle conduct a traffic infraction and upon investigation, determine it was reported stolen out of Fairfax County earlier that morning. A traffic stop was conducted and the two occupants were taken into custody and charged.

RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE, 2021-11260135, 850 Army Navy Drive. On November 26th, police were alerted to a stolen vehicle. Officers located the parked, unoccupied vehicle and confirmed its status as stolen. During the course of the investigation, officers identified and located the vehicle's occupants, a juvenile and adult. A firearm was located on the adult suspect and he was arrested and charged.

CARJACKING SENTENCING, 2019-08280013, S. Four Mile Run Drive at S. Thomas Street. On November 10th, a [Washington D.C. man was sentenced](#) to 357 months in prison for his role in an August 2019 carjacking in Arlington County and subsequent armed robbery in Lorton which resulted in a police chase involving Virginia State Police which injured two troopers.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING/BARRICADE, 2021-11110133, 400 block of 23rd Street S. On November 11th, police were dispatched to the report of a fight. Upon arrival, it was determined that Victim One was inside the business in line at the register behind the suspect, when the suspect allegedly turned around, struck him in the face, exited the business and verbally threatened him from outside. A short while later, Victim Two attempted to enter the business when the suspect, who was still standing outside, allegedly struck the victim in the back of the head with a blunt object before fleeing the scene on foot. During the course of the investigation, detectives developed a suspect description and obtained warrants for him. The suspect was located but barricaded himself inside of a residence and refused to exit. Tactical Units and patrol officers established surveillance at the home and on Saturday, November 13th, the suspect emerged from the residence and was taken into custody without incident.

1998 Homicide, Following years of dedicated investigative work, the Arlington County Police Department's Cold Case Unit announced in November that [charges had been sought](#) against two individuals for the 1998 homicide of Andrea Cincotta.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of all travelers - including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists - on our roadways. The Department uses a two-pronged approach to improving transportation safety: education and enforcement. Below are some of the notable actions undertaken in the month of November in support of the Department's key initiative of Transportation Safety.

- The Special Operations Section (SOS) assisted with six escorts and three special events during the month of November.
- Officers continued enforcement of the hands-free law and allocated a total of 44 hours towards these efforts.
- Officers participated in the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's](#) Fall Street Smart campaign, which aims to identify and change unsafe behavior patterns amongst motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists, with the goal of reducing the number of traffic-related collisions and injuries on our roadways.
- On November 20th, 2021, the Special Operations Section assisted with the [Jennifer Bush-Lawson Memorial 5k & Family Fun Day](#). The race is dedicated to the memory of Jennifer Bush-Lawson who lost her life in a tragic vehicle collision near Nottingham Elementary School on February 24th, 2014.
- The Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) is an enforcement campaign designed to make our roadways safer by identifying, stopping, and apprehending drivers who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Officers working ASAP made seven DUI arrests, issued 32 traffic summonses and six reckless driving summonses, recovered one stolen vehicle and apprehended one fugitive.
- Police investigated a [fatal vehicle crash](#) in the East Falls Church neighborhood on November 3rd, 2021.
- Police investigated a [fatal motorcycle crash](#) in the Green Valley neighborhood on November 11th, 2021.
- Police investigated a [critical crash](#) in the Westover Village neighborhood on November 17th, 2021.

DEDICATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

| Program | Hours in November |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Radar Speed Enforcement | 155.5 |
| Red Light | 128.5 |
| DMV Grant Funded Enforcement | 35 |
| Crash Reduction Program | 92.5 |



Street Smart Campaign Activation – NOVEMBER 17th

CRASHES

| Crash Type | Crashes in November |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Total Crashes | 133 |
| Fatal Crashes | 2 |
| Serious Injury Crashes | 4 |
| Pedestrian-Involved Crashes | 14 |



Jennifer Bush-Lawson 5K
NOVEMBER 20th, 2021



Turkey Trot 5k
NOVEMBER 25th, 2021

CITATIONS/WRITTEN WARNINGS

| Month | Citations/Written Warnings Issued in November |
|----------|---|
| November | 1,245 |

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since the 1990's, the Police Department has embraced community policing, a philosophy and practice that seeks to involve everyone in the safety and welfare of their community. The Agency is committed to actively engaging with the public to build strong community-based partnerships and foster police interaction and cooperation with those we serve. Below are some of the notable highlights from the month of November in support of the department's key initiative of Community Engagement.

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OUTREACH UNITS

The Community Outreach Unit attended numerous community events and meetings throughout the month of November and addressed four community complaints. Highlights of the month included

- **Drug Take Back:** Members of the Community Outreach Unit continued the [permanent prescription drug take back program](#) and safely disposed of 100.3 pounds of unused, unwanted, or expired prescription medications turned into the four secure locations.
- **Community Police Academy:** The Community Police Academy concluded this month with 15 community members graduating from the 10-week program. Participants learned about the Department's many units, training areas, investigations, and other relevant issues in the field of policing, and had hands-on experiences to learn about the challenges faced by officers on a day-to-day basis. The next Community Police Academy will take place in early 2022.
- **Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive:** ACPD's 7th annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive and Operation Stocking Stuffer programs continued in November and conclude in mid-December. In addition to traditional toy drive events, toys were collected at Police Headquarters and at many local businesses and community partner organizations.
- **Crime Prevention:** To address seasonal concerns regarding thefts during the holiday season, officers continue to conduct high-visibility patrols at shopping areas throughout the County. Officers continue to conduct informal engagement with local business owners and managers to develop rapport with them and share information about retail crime prevention.

ENGAGEMENT

- **Homeless Outreach:** Officers addressed recent complaints regarding homeless individuals under the Route 66 bridge near the 6800 block of Lee Highway and met with the individuals to advise them of shelter, job-assistance and other resources offered by Arlington County. ACPD continues to work with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and PathForward regarding several homeless encampments in the community to coordinate outreach efforts and share resources.
- **Youth Outreach Updates:** The Youth Outreach Unit continued to work on establishing programs and activities centered around youth engagement within the county. Some of the programs are Lunch Bunch at Fleet Elementary, AHC After-School Program drop-ins, Parks and Recreation Teen Program drop-ins, Second Chance meetings, Reaching New Heights, Lunch Trivia at Williamsburg Middle School, the Hero Pen Pal program, and reading to kids at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington.
- **Community Outreach Updates:** The teams attended multiple civic and community association meetings during the month of November to review recent crime statistics, share crime prevention information and address community concerns.
- In October, ACPD investigated a serious hit and run crash involving a juvenile bicyclist whose bicycle was destroyed. Officer Velez and Officer Hoffman coordinated with Adam Squad officers to purchase a new bike for the juvenile. Officer Velez also came up with the idea of purchasing gifts for the juvenile's younger siblings. Members of Adam Squad have coordinated a meeting the first week of December to present the gifts to the family while displaying superhero shirts bought by Officer Velez and the children are big comic fans.
- Officer Hoffman identified a family in need for the holidays. He generously purchased a gift card to a grocery store with his own money and provide it to the family to assist with their Thanksgiving Holiday.
- While on scene of a motor vehicle crash, Corporal Smithgall and Officer Velez discovered that a 9-year-old child was visibly upset after having been involved. Given the circumstances, Cpl. Smithgall retrieved a teddy bear from his vehicle and provided it to the child in the hopes that the bear would help comfort him.
- Officer Velez and Adam Squad members created a get-well video for a child that is battling a debilitating disease. Officer Velez advised that the parents share the video every night with their son so he can rest easier knowing that he has our support.
- Officer Hicken responded for a check of a man in the cold. She discovered he only had \$20 and needed to get home, so she paid the difference for the Taxi. She also assisted a pregnant woman with properly securing her car seat following a vehicle crash. While responding to a call, she encountered a subject who was lost and cold and provided them with a coat. Lastly, she located a woman with Alzheimer's wondering the halls of an assisted living facility. She was able to calm her down and get her back to her room.
- Officers hosted a RadKids training class for the Girls Outreach Program in November, helping teach empowerment and self-defense to youth.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)

- **Parks and Recreation Partnership:** Youth and Community Outreach Unit officers continue to regularly meet with the Department of Parks and Recreation to expand the foundation of our partnership with them.

ARLINGTON RESTAURANT INITIATIVE (ARI) AND THE NIGHTLIFE DETAIL

- The Nightlife Detail saw steady patron counts during the month of November in both Clarendon and Crystal City.
- Members of ARI organized and participated in eight meetings with restaurant and business owners, other County agencies, and community stakeholder groups to further its relations with the community, resolve concerns, and promote its programs.
- This Thanksgiving, members of ARI, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) partnered to remind community members that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*, by hosting an interactive anti-drunk driving event to highlight the impact that alcohol has on motor skills.
- A total of 69 fake identifications were collected by the Nightlife Detail during the month of November.
- There were eight Bar Safe violations issued during the month of November.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

- Lieutenant Troyano continues to liaison with Crisis Intervention Team staff members to reestablish regular training for Police Department personnel.
- Captain Rowling and Lieutenant Troyano attended the Marcus Alert Technical Group meeting on November 10th, which aims to provide a behavioral response to behavioral health emergencies.
- Meetings continue to be held with DHS and Police Department executive staff members to facilitate improved wait times for Temporary Detention Order (TDO) service for those experiencing mental health emergencies in our community.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- The Recruitment & Retention Unit (R&RU) hosted two testing dates for patrol officer applicants. In total, 13 applicants completed the Entrance Exam and the Physical Agility Test (PAT), with 10 of those applicants advancing to the next stage of the hiring process.
- The R&RU continues to utilize the Handshake platform to conduct outreach to potential applicants and share information about careers within the Department. Members of the R&RU reached students by sending more than 93,000 messages about upcoming career fairs, workshops and hiring events.

AUXILIARY UNIT

- Auxiliary Officers provided a total of 453 hours of service for the month of November (3139 hours total for the 2021 calendar year), which includes 43 safety seat inspections, 99 bicycle registrations, and four special events.

ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT: HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



This year, ACPD hosted the 7th Annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive. During the month of November, members of the Community Engagement Division (CED) collected new, unwrapped toys for Arlington children at four different locations across the County. We are grateful for the generosity of our community members and for your help ensuring that the holidays are bright and joyous for children in need.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



On November 3rd, ACPD's Motor Officers and Community Engagement Division participated in Drew Elementary School's PBIS/PBL Community Walk!



On Thanksgiving-eve, traditionally a time of celebrations with heavy alcohol consumption, ACPD hosted an interactive anti-drunk driving event where participants pledged to take a sober ride home.



On November 4th, the Arlington Police Beneficiary Association presented a donation check to the Arlington Free Clinic of \$545 raised for their breast cancer program through sales of pink ACPD patches.



As part of the Street Smart high-visibility traffic enforcement campaign, officers reminded motorists to obey speed limits, remain alert for pedestrians walking & biking, and to stop for people crossing the street.



On November 18th, we celebrated the graduation of the 25th Community Police Academy! Over the previous 10 weeks, they participated in panel discussions, practical exercises & hands-on training.



ACPD's Latino Liaison, Cpl. Montoya, shared about his career in law enforcement & as a member of the Community Engagement Division with students at the APS Latino Youth Leadership Conference.



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