



Alumni News

A Publication of the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (FCCPAAA)



FCCPD Officers, CPA Alumni, and VIPS gathered to recognize Lt. Dave Cox during his farewell celebration. Lt. Cox will now be a day shift supervisor at the Mt. Vernon station

Best Wishes to Lt. Dave Cox

Please join me in thanking Lt. Dave Cox for his unwavering support for the Citizens Police Academy and alumni association over the last two years. As you know, Lt. Cox is headed back to the streets as "A" side day shift supervisor at the Mount Vernon station.

Under Lt. Cox's leadership, several improvements were made to the CPA. We began hosting "community" CPA's in an effort to bring the CPA to individual communities around Fairfax County. Our first community CPA was held in the summer of 2007 in Culmore. Since that time, we have hosted a mix of three and five week community CPA's in Annandale and Mount Vernon. These community programs are in addition to our regular ten-week sessions in the spring and fall.

Lt. Cox also procured display panels and a flat-screen monitor for us to recruit with. We are now able to recruit candidates for future CPA's with a professional appearance. You can see the CPA booth at festivals around the County, including Celebrate Fairfax, Mason Days, and various station Open Houses.

Lt. Cox was a steadfast supporter of our programs, attending just about every CPA class and alumni meeting during his tenure. We send our best wishes as he begins his new assignment. Be safe!

Mt. Vernon Community CPA

At the request of the commander and assistant commander of the Mount Vernon district station, we hosted a community CPA in Mount Vernon this summer. The five-week program was held at the South County Building on Route 1 and was a huge success. We received more than 100 applications and inquiries in four weeks and approximately 40 people participated in the program. Dinner was provided at each class, thanks to the generosity of the Mount Vernon station and the FCCPAAA.

Because of the overwhelming response to the program, we have been asked to host another CPA in Mount Vernon in January. Our second Mount Vernon CPA will be held January 15 – February 12, 2009. CPA staff will soon be contacting everyone on the wait list. For more information, please email us at CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov. *See photo, Page 2

FCCPD News

Search Continues for Missing Officer

Boats and police helicopters will continue their search throughout the night for a 42-year-old, Fairfax County police officer who went missing in the waters of Pohick Bay during an afternoon training exercise. The United States Coast Guard and the Federal Bureau of Investigation have provided tremendous support and remain active in the search.

Chief Rohrer released the following statement regarding the incident: "I am not able to provide significant detail at this stage, but our current focus is our commitment to continue our search and rescue mission, with significant efforts underway by our dedicated men and women. I have been on the scene through yesterday afternoon and throughout the night and we have continued focused water and aerial searches, which we have again expanded with additional ground searches with the rising sun this morning.

Most importantly, I ask, as always, that you continue to support each other. As police officers many of us are reluctant to share our personal feelings, but it is critical that we do so."



Contact FCCPAAA

Do you have questions or suggestions for the **FCCPAAA Board of Directors**? We'd love to hear from you!

FCCPAAA

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www.fccpaaa.org **NEW!**

Lt. Karen Bonz Selected as New Volunteer Coordinator

Lt. Karen Bonz was selected in September as the new Auxiliary Police and VIPS Coordinator. Lt. Bonz comes to us from Franconia Station, where she served as a patrol shift supervisor. Lt. Bonz has been the department since 1986. Some of her past assignments include:

- Mount Vernon District Station - patrol officer and patrol Sergeant
- Franconia District Station - patrol officer, patrol Sergeant, patrol Second Lieutenant, and commander of the Neighborhood Patrol Unit (aka Bike Team)
- Public Information office from 1993-1995, including oversight of the Crime Solvers Program

Lt. Bonz is a very proud member of the Police Unity Tour - Northern Virginia Group. The police Unity Tour is a 300-mile bike ride that occurs at the beginning of Police Week in May. The purpose is to raise awareness of those who have died in the Line of Duty and to raise funds to support the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum. Each rider has to raise \$1700.00. There are 42 members from our department participating in the ride this coming May. Our officers will join an additional 400 officers in the ride from New Jersey to Washington D.C.

As the new volunteer coordinator, Lt. Bonz also joins the FCCPAAA board of directors. Please join me in welcoming Lt. Bonz to the FCCPAAA!

FCCPAAA Canteen Up and Running!

Those who have been on the Department for awhile remember a volunteer bringing sodas and snacks to major incidents. After several hours of hunger pains, officers were extremely happy to see the white pick-up truck pull in with food and drink. The service was provided by the volunteer and supported by donations from the community. Although the hard work from the volunteer was appreciated, the service was sporadic due his personal schedule and donation levels.

This is about to change! The idea to bring back a police canteen was started by Sergeant Jim Tanler in 2007. He recognized the importance of meeting an officer's basic needs on the scene of major events and prolonged operations and wanted to help keep them focused on the job at hand, and not their stomachs. When the concept was presented to the Fairfax County Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association, (FCCPAAA) the members jumped on the opportunity. FCCPAAA is always looking for ways to help the street officer and this idea was **exactly** the kind of involvement we were looking for.

Once the FCCPAAA Board of Directors agreed to take on the project, a store was set up inside the Uniform Room where caps, mugs, patches and lapel pins were sold. All of the proceeds went to stock the Canteen Program. The Alumni furthered their involvement by coordinating the collection of Coke bottle tops and can flaps to be redeemed for merchandise. Collection bins were set up throughout the County so members could collect and redeem the caps for merchandise to add to the pot. Alumni also went to the business community and obtained cash donations from places such as Wegmans.

Finding volunteers for a program that has people called out in the middle of the night can be challenging, but the outpour of support for the canteen is overwhelming. Alumni, VIPS and APO's have stepped up for the worthwhile cause. We now have enough volunteers to ensure that the canteen will be at all of our scheduled DWI checkpoints for the rest of this year.

The Canteen Program exemplifies the type of project the FCCPAAA was looking for. We value the relationships we developed during our citizen academy sessions and want to help serve the officers who serve the community. We're very happy to have the beginnings of a canteen service for our officers and we look forward to meeting you on the next scene!



Mount Vernon CPA Class Photo

