CPAAAN News

DECEMBER 2015

Vol. 15 Issue 4    Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association of Norfolk    © 2015

Meets 3rd Tuesday of each month (except July and August)
7:00PM at Second Patrol Division • 2500 N. Military Hwy, Norfolk

CPAAAN is a 501c(3) non-profit whose mission is to support Norfolk law enforcement.

Current Meeting Notice:

Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 pm

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SOCIAL & RAFFLE

Next meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 pm

Forensics used in Crime Scene Investigations

See You there and Bring a dish for Pot Luck

If you have questions or need information on anything pertaining to CPAAAN, please contact our webmaster at cpaaan.org. Just click on “comments to the webmaster” at the bottom. Or send an email to cpaaan@yahoo.com.

Food for Thought:

“December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come.” - Fennel Hudson

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Happy Birthday To:

♦ Dec  7 — Amanda Stewart
♦ Dec  9 — Phillip Hawkins Jr.
♦ Dec 10 — Michael Arthur Duane Bazar
♦ Dec 19 — Kathleen Rose
♦ Dec 20 — Sheila Wade
♦ Dec 22 — Hubert (Tony) Derrell
♦ Dec 28 — Shirley Grissom Debby Melby
♦ Dec 30 — Susan Westin
♦ Dec 31 — Merlyn Blackwood Susan “Sunny” Hahn

December, being the last month of the year, cannot help but make us think of what is to come.” - Fennel Hudson

Food for Thought:

“Every great DREAM begins with a DREAMER.
Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars, to change the world.” - Harriet Tubman
Mission Statement

The Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association of Norfolk’s mission is to support law enforcement in Norfolk, VA through education, information, networking, community service and volunteerism.

The President’s Beat

Dear Membership,

I hope the CPAAAN members who were able to attend our November General Meeting enjoyed it as much as I did. Captain Huffman gave an excellent presentation on Active Shooter Preparedness, followed by the NPD SWAT Team Presentation. Thank you to all our NPD Officers for the wonderful work that they do and for continuing to educate the CPAAAN Membership.

November 19, 2015 was the Citizens Police Academy Graduation. The class had 32 students and out of 32; 30 were able to attend the graduation. I had the opportunity to chat with a few graduates and I can tell you that they are looking forward to joining the Alumni. Hopefully, we will see them at this month General Meeting. To all of our new members, I look forward to working with you in the future.

At the close of each calendar year, I like to look back and reflex on our improvements and on areas we still need to improve on. This year we added a few more valuable members to our CPAAAN Board and our Membership participation has increased. Thank you for a job well done. I am confident that with our members renewed interest in our supportive activities and the excitement of our new members, 2016 is going to be a great year.

On behalf of the CPAAAN Board, we wish you Happy Holidays and all the best for the new year.

I look forward to seeing you at our next General Meeting, December 15, 2015, at 7:00 pm.

Yvette Brown, President
Minutes from November, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Yvette Brown at 7:00 pm. The Invocation was offered by Bill Childress; the pledge of allegiance was led by Allen Williams. A motion to accept the minutes of the previous minutes was made by John Pitts and a second by Carollee Beckham. Mary Babcock then gave the Treasurer's report.

Yvette Brown introduced Captain David Huffman of the Norfolk Police Department Homeland Security Division as our guest speaker. Captain Huffman stated homeland security was established in 2005 and consists of many departments such as special ops, K-9 corps, bomb squads (both fire and police), and crisis negotiators. He also talked about S.A.R. (suspicious activity reporting). If you see something that does not look right (suspicious) say something to the authority immediately.

Captain Huffman then talked about active shooter preparedness. An active shooter incident is considered an active threat, which is an ongoing situation where the suspect is actively engaged in the killing/wounding of citizens. The SWAT team is called in for this crisis. Their number one goal is Life safety, secondly incident stabilization and thirdly property preservation. These teams consist of 16 members each; and each one has a goal to fulfill.

You as the victim should remember three thing to do during an active shooting (1) Run from the shooter (2) Hide from the shooter and (3) when all else fails fight the shooter. When calling the police try and give as much information possible without getting hurt. An example of this would be: how many shooters are there, your location, how many people are with you, a description of the shooter, and if anyone is hurt.

President Yvette Brown mentioned the Crime Prevention Award Ceremony will be March 21, 2016 at the Doubletree Hilton on Military North Highway tickets are $30.00 each; start letting your friends, family and coworkers know about it.

Don't forget the Christmas raffle for the ham and turkey will be held at the December 15 meeting; have your tickets ready and good luck. This is also our Christmas social.

The 50/50 winner was Monica Lohr – Congratulations!

Yvette Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:30

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Beaty, Recording Secretary
From the Chief’s Office

Norfolk Police Department

www.norfolk.gov/Police/

Chief Michael Goldsmith

Tis Every Season for Serving and Sharing

During this season of thanks and giving, I am grateful to our officers that continue to show their commitment by working with residents as partners to help solve crimes, educate, and keep our neighborhoods safe. We constantly work to renew and develop new community bonds.

We recognize the youth of Norfolk are our future and we continue to invest and volunteer our time and attention to educate and connect through mentoring with the Life Enrichment Center of Norfolk, and the Boys and Girls Club Norview Unit. The Norfolk Police Youth Academy; a staple in our arsenal of youth initiatives, continues to serve children across the City every day.

Officers have positively impacted the lives of hundreds of Norfolk elementary and middle school students since the Academy's inception in 2006. Teens With a Purpose, a creative arts youth organization, is an exceptional partner, and we have been able to learn from each other via monthly interactions, to include spring break camps and the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday. There are no shortage of opportunities to share your wisdom and talent with youth through any of the Norfolk Police Department community initiatives. Please contact our Community Relations Manager, Karen Parker-Chesson, Karen.Parker-Chesson@Norfolk.gov, and she will be glad to assist you.

Please be sure to go to Facebook.com/NorfolkPD and Norfolk.gov/Police to learn how we are further serving our citizens, or join us every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 9:00 am for “WE Are ONE – NPD And YOU,” our live call-in radio talk show on WGPL-1350 AM.

Call me or our officers at (757) 624 – 9475 with your comments, questions or tips from a criminal incident. This is yet another community policing initiative to communicate crime prevention tips, share civic league information and solicit your help for any tips.

Congratulations to the recent graduates of the Citizens Police Academy! It is gratifying to know that we have a new legion of community policing partners. I look forward to meeting and working with you as members of the Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association of Norfolk, and taking your calls on “WE Are ONE – NPD And YOU.”

Be sure to save the date, January 28th, 2016, and join us for the graduation ceremony of Academy Recruit Class 97, at Norview High School, 6501 Chesapeake Boulevard, Norfolk, Virginia, at 6:30pm.

Our fortitude as a Department comes from our personnel, and I am sincerely pleased and thankful for the high quality of professionalism and caliber of work executed by civilians and sworn members. Mayor Fraim and Council members continue to show themselves supportive of the Department, and are strong allies in making Norfolk a safe place to live, work and play.

Please have a safe and happy holiday!
LETTER FROM NORFOLK JAIL

Last Thursday I went to jail. I promise I'll only make that joke once, because once you've been to jail, it isn't funny.

It was my first day as director of our project at the Norfolk City Jail. And it was the first day I would realize that all of the things that have happened to me — all of the things — were in preparation for this day.

I spent my early youth in an all-white suburb of Detroit. I knew there was something off about this even as a small child, and drove my parents crazy with questions.

I now know some of the answers to those questions, but the smack of shame that hit me burnt fresh as I walked past the cages (and that's what they are, cages) full of brown men. The aroma of teenaged boy, which when you have teen-aged sons you adore, is a sweet scent of promise and loss, brought tears to my eyes. I was following in the wake of Karen Hopkins of the Sheriff’s office, who greeted many of the men by name and with a smile. I slapped a smile on and took a deep breath.

Mr. Thomas, the 8th floor counselor, introduced me to my three writers. We sat at a small table in a sort of side hall and got to know each other. Turns out they already identify as writers. They’ve been writing in journals every day for Mr. Thomas, who reads and comments on their entries. Later, he would tell me that this helps him get to know them better, so that he can be his most helpful. I wanted to hug him.

My students so far: C., quiet and introspective; Q., long and lanky with a great sense of humor; and S., younger than the others with darting eyes and a soft voice.

We wrote, we shared, we talked about how grateful we are to be writers, to have that freedom to express ourselves. Each of us had that one teacher early on who called us out as writers, motivated and encouraged us. Told us we were good at something... Something to do, not something to be. The energy in the space was incredible — what happens when real connections are made between people. The time disappeared. Afterwards, I just made it the three blocks to my husband’s office before I burst into tears. I had found my gig.

Everything that’s happened to me — from Michigan, to my four sons, from those teachers who called me out to the friends who got me through rejections and dismissals — was in preparation for this.

I’m heading back on Thursday, and every Thursday after that. We started Seven Cities Writers Project for a very simple reason. We have something to give to people who need it, and we are so grateful for the opportunity.

Written by Lisa Hartz
Lisa Hartz is co-director of the non-profit Seven Cities Writers Project which brings writing workshops to underserved communities.
Active Shooters

Unfortunately, the phrase “active shooter” has become a part of our vocabulary and in our everyday thoughts. We have to plan escape routes or a course of action when we go to our work places, the movies, the mall, church and school. I have taken some awareness and preparation classes that I found very helpful, and slightly scary, but informative.

I learned that there is no single stereotype for an active shooter. An active shooter can range in age, sex, color and status; they could be anyone. Over the last 10 years, there have been 160 active shooter events. Agencies are now saying, “If you see or hear something, say something.” Several indicators that someone could be a potential threat include withdrawal from everyone, having angry outbursts and increased use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs. Potential triggers for an active shooter can range anywhere from losing a job to “I hate Mondays,” as one active shooter stated. Most events contain only one active shooter, but there have been a few events that have had more than one active shooter.

The following are three important things to remember during an active shooter event:

1. Run – If possible, run for an exit if it is safe to do so. Encourage others to exit the building as well. Do not linger and try to take anyone who is hesitant or refusing to leave.
2. Hide – If you cannot get out of the area/building safely, then hide. Try to lock doors or barricade doors if possible. Turn cell phones down with no vibration.
3. Fight – If all other options are not available and your life is in danger, then fight. Grab any items nearby to try to overcome the shooter or to throw at him or her. Give it all you have.

When you are coming out of a building with an active shooter incident and law enforcement is outside, be sure to hold your hands up in the air with your fingers spread. Law enforcement does not know who the active shooter is and will consider everyone a suspect. Place any items you have on the ground and remain calm. Avoid any quick movements toward officers. Law enforcement may question you or pat you down. If you saw the active shooter, identify clothing that he or she may have been wearing and physical characteristics such as gender, race, height, etc. Also, let law enforcement know if there is only one shooter or multiple shooters and where they were headed. This is all helpful information to law enforcement. Law enforcement will focus on the shooter and not the wounded. Be aware that they are there to take care of the imminent danger first, not to take care of the wounded. After law enforcement has the situation under control, they will allow paramedics and other agencies into the building/area.

All training or preparedness will mention that it is a good idea to have drills. One exercise in which I participated at MacArthur Mall really opened my eyes to how “educationally scary” an active shooter drill really can be. The event was held in coordination with the Norfolk FBI, the Norfolk Police Department (including the Bomb Squad and the SWAT team), the Norfolk Fire Department, and other various organizations such as the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) of Norfolk. My daughter and I volunteered to be involved in the exercise because we are members of CERT. We rode The Tide from Newtown Road to MacArthur Mall. The exercise occurred after 10:00 p.m. and ran through most of the night. The scenario was seven terrorists had taken over The Tide and then invaded the Mall. They were using blanks in handguns and sawed off rifles. They had flash bombs and set them off in the parking garages. The drill reinforced to me the importance of knowing where your exits are and possibly what not to do the next time I am involved in a drill or a real active shooter event. Also, the man who “shot” my daughter and me was sitting in front of me on The Tide. I did not profile him as an active shooter and it made me rethink my first impressions of people.

There are numerous free awareness and preparedness classes in the area. Most cities, for example, have programs for preparedness. Check with various organizations and civic leagues about free training or drills. Communities also offer Police Citizens Academies that provide free training that also allows people to see what our police officers do. You can Google “Police Citizen Academy” in your hometown to see if your community offers one. The following two links may prove useful as well:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VcSwejU2D0
http://search.dhs.gov/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&affiliate=dhs&query=active+shooter

As the Isle of Wight Sheriff recently stated in a presentation on how to prepare for active shooters, “By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail.” This Benjamin Franklin quote has taken on additional meaning today as we address the challenge of active shooters.

About the Author: Tammy Nolette
Events Coordinator CPAAAN
DECEMBER

OBSERVANCES: Universal Human Rights Month; Safe Toys and Gifts Month

HOLIDAYS: World AIDS Day (1st); Hanukkah=start (6th); Pearl Harbor Remembrance (7th); Human Rights Day (10th); National Guard Birthday (13th); Hanukkah=end (14th); Winter Solstice (14th); Christmas Day (25th); Boxing Day/Kwanza=start (26th); New Years Ever (31st).
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