CITY OF BEDFORD

A MAIN STREET CITY

POLICE DEPARTMENT
JAMES E. DAY, CHIEF OF POLICE

TELEPHONE (540) 587-6011
FAX (540) 586-7198

PRESS RELEASE

May 14, 2012

For Immediate Release

On Sunday, May 13, 2012 at approximately 12:30 a.m., Bedford Police responded to Bedford Middle School located at 503 Longwood Avenue in the City of Bedford in reference to a fire alarm. On arrival, officers found that a window glass had been broken on a door and entry into the school had been made. Bedford Fire Department and deputies from the Bedford County Sheriff's Office also responded. After a search of the building, no one was found inside. The suspect damaged an as yet undetermined amount of electronic equipment. The case remains under investigation.

UPDATE MAY 18, 2012

Detention Orders Obtained for two juveniles in Bedford Middle School Burglary: On Friday, May 18, 2012 Investigators with the Bedford Police Department obtained detention orders for two 14-year-old juveniles for breaking into Bedford Middle School during the early morning hours of Sunday, May 13. Both juveniles were charged with the following:

1 count of Breaking and Entering (18.2-91 COV)
1 count of Felony Property Damage (18.2-137 COV)
1 count of Arson Feloniously Attempt to Burn Public Building (18.2-79 COV)
1 count of Trespassing on School Property after hours (18.2-128 COV)

Detention orders have been obtained and when served, the juveniles, one from Bedford County and one from Botetourt County, will be taken to the juvenile detention facility in Lynchburg.

May 10, 2012
For Immediate Release:

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Click It or Ticket to Boost Seat Belt Use – Day and Night

Motorists who refuse to wear their seat belts-beware. The 2012 national *Click It or Ticket* seat belt

enforcement mobilization kicks off May 21 to help save lives by cracking down on those who don't buckle up.

Bedford Police Department is joining with other state and local law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates across the country to help save more lives by strongly enforcing all traffic laws, especially seat belt laws around the clock.

While Virginia's seat belt use rate increased slightly to 81.8% up from 80.5% in 2010, there is still much work to be done. According to the DMV Highway Safety Office's TREDS (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) in preliminary 2011statistics, there were a total of 765 fatalities-306 of them were unrestrained at the time of the crash. Of the total unrestrained fatalities (306), 93 or 30.39% of them were between the hours of Midnight-6:00AMwith69.89% or 65 of those 93 between midnight and 3:00AM.

"Seat belt use is just too important to ignore", said Lt. Todd Foreman "We want to stress that regularly buckling up works, and we know of too many cases, largely at night, that all too often ends in tragedy." Lt. Todd Foreman went on to say, "Our goal is to save more lives, so Bedford Police Department will be out enforcing ALL traffic laws including seat belt use around the clock."

Regular seat belt use saves thousands of lives across Virginia each year. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics show that in 2010 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 272 lives in Virginia. An additional 112 lives could be saved with 100 percent seat belt use.

While this year's *Click It or Ticket* enforcement mobilization runs from May 21-June3, motorists should know that officers are out enforcing traffic laws, including seat belt laws year-round.

"Those who choose not to obey traffic laws and not to wear a seat belt will feel the heat from our officers who will be out cracking down on violators. Everyone in the vehicle should buckle up every time they go out, both day and night," said Chief James Day. "Our officers are prepared to ticket anyone who is violating the law and not buckled up…no warnings and no excuses. *Click It or Ticket*."

May 14, 2012

For Immediate Release

On Sunday, May 13, 2012 at approximately 12:30 a.m., Bedford Police responded to Bedford Middle School located at 503 Longwood Avenue in the City of Bedford in reference to a fire alarm. On arrival, officers found that a window glass had been broken on a door and entry into the school had been made. Bedford Fire Department and deputies from the Bedford County Sheriff's Office also responded. After a search of the building, no one was found inside. The suspect damaged an as yet undetermined amount of electronic equipment. The case remains under investigation.

January 30, 2012

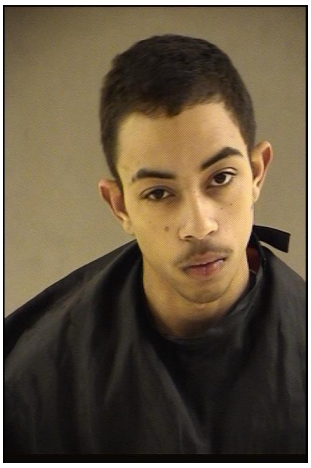
For Immediate Release

On Friday, January 27, 2012, Bedford Police responded to a business in the City of Bedford regarding an individual trying to pawn what may have been stolen merchandise. One individual was on foot and two subjects were in a vehicle nearby. As the police approached the individuals in the vehicle, one of them ran from the officers. After a lengthy foot pursuit, the subject was apprehended.

Arrested and charged with possession of stolen property were Anton Shatae Buckner, age 26 of Lynchburg, and Ishmael Naim Bryant, age 18 of Lynchburg.

Items that were recovered included cell phones, GPS devices, IPods, and games and were valued at over $2000. The investigation is continuing and more charges may be forthcoming. But subjects were incarcerated in the Blue Ridge Jail Authority facility in Bedford.

Anton Shatae Buckner



Ishmael Naim Bryant

January 25,2012
For Immediate Release

On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at Bedford City Council, the Bedford Police Department received its certificate from the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission

(VLEPSC), which certified that the Department achieved its goal of being re-accredited. Chief Gary Roche from the Pulaski Police Department represented the Commission and noted that the Bedford Police Department is one of less than ninety Departments statewide out of over four hundred, which are accredited through VLEPSC.

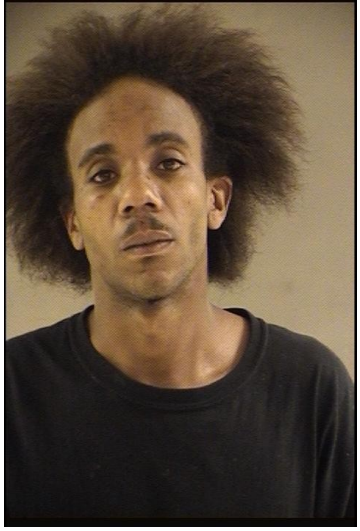
To meet the requirements of accreditation, a Department must be in compliance with 187 standards which are set by the Commission. Many of the standards have multiple bullets associated with them, which raises the total to over 400 requirements. In October, the Commission sent a team of assessors to review the Department; this review lasts three days. During the assessment, the team reviews the Department's policies and procedures, rides with and speaks with police officers on the job, and reviews files to ensure that the Department is following best practices in Law Enforcement as established by the Commission. The assessment report was then sent to the Commission, which approved the recommendation of the assessment team for Bedford's re-accreditation at Williamsburg during their regularly scheduled meeting in November. Each accreditation cycle is for a period of four years.

Chief Day complemented his Department and staff for the work that they did to achieve this very important status. He also gave special recognition to Sergeant Eddie Harmony for his hard work. As Accreditation Manager, Harmony is responsible for maintaining the files associated with all of the required standards.

November 1, 2011

For Immediate Release

On October 25, 2011 at approximately 11:30 p.m., officers with the Bedford Police Department responded to the Liberty Manor Apartments in the 800 block of Short Street in the City of Bedford in reference to a fight. When they arrived they spoke with a female who advised that she had been sexually assaulted by a subject in her apartment. The victim described the suspect who then walked out from behind one of the apartment buildings wearing only socks. When the suspect saw the police officer, he ran. The officer was able to capture the suspect after a short foot pursuit. Arrested was James Randell Watkins, age 24 of Bedford, VA. He was charged with drunk in public, indecent exposure, assault and battery, abduction and rape.



Watkins is being held without bond in the Blue Ridge Regional Jail in Bedford.

October 24, 2011

For Immediate Release

On October 22, 2011 officers from the Bedford Police Department executed a search warrant for illegal drugs in the 800 Block of Short Street in the City of Bedford. During the search, officers located and seized a quantity of marijuana and cocaine. Charged with possession of marijuana and cocaine with intent to distribute were Ashley Denise Kelso, age 23, of the City of Bedford, and Tony Donnell Parker, age 26, of Bedford County. Both subjects were taken to the Blue Ridge Regional Jail in Bedford.

Ashley D. Kelso

Tony D. Parker

Kelso was also charged with possession of stolen property.

Both Kelso and Parker have been released on bond.

Sept 21, 2011

Saturday, September 24, 2011

10 AM to 2 PM

Bring your Best Looking Police Car

And help us raise money for

Special Olympics

Aug. 2-2011
For immediate release:

At National Night Out on Tuesday, August 2, 2011, Officer Timothy Stanley of the Bedford Police Department was awarded the Traffic Enforcement Officer of the Year for 2010. This is the second consecutive year that Officer Stanley has won this award which recognizes the officer that leads the Department with a combination of speeding citations, seat belt and child safety seat citations, and arrests for driving under the influence. These are the areas that are stressed for enforcement because of their effectiveness in reducing traffic crashes.

There is a general correlation between traffic crashes and traffic enforcement efforts. Since 2007, when total crashes within the City of Bedford were 302, there has been a significant reduction in total crashes. For calendar year 2010 there were 195 crashes, or a reduction of 35.4% from 2007. For the current calendar year through July 31, there have been 107 crashes which continues the downward trend.

Chief Jim Day with Officer Tim Stanley

Congratulations to Officer Tim Stanley, who with the Bedford Police Department, is working to make our community safer!

Aug. 2, 2011
For Immediate Release

AREVA Donates Two 3-D Laser Scanning Units to Central Virginia Regional Crash Team

Tuesday, August 2, 9:30 a.m.
AREVA
3315 Old Forest Road
Lynchburg

AREVA is donating two 3-D scanners to one of seven regional law enforcement "crash teams" in Virginia on Tuesday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m. at AREVA's Old Forest Road office at 3315 Old Forest Road, Lynchburg. The equipment will make it possible for officers to capture the conditions of crime or accident scenes in digital 3-D environments. This functionality can aid in determining such information as vehicle speed and trajectory.
AREVA has used the equipment and subsequent 3-D models generated from the laser scan data for such tasks as component replacement or other plant modification projects. Interference analysis and design studies can be staged virtually in a computer-aided design (CAD) environment. This type of project planning utilizing the 3-D data collected by the laser scanners minimizes project costs and risks while achieving accuracy.
Law enforcement agencies are using this type of scanner increasingly to enhance their current capabilities in forensics. The biggest obstacle for most agencies is the cost to acquire them. This equipment is valued at more than $70,000.
"This generous donation by AREVA has afforded us with an opportunity to acquire technology and equipment that we would never be able to afford on our own," said Captain Jim Bennett of the Bedford Police Department and Leader of the Central Virginia Regional Crash Team, one of the jurisdictions that will be utilizing the equipment. "These scanners will enhance our capabilities to reconstruct traffic crashes as well as crime scene

investigations. Our team is very excited about the potential to acquire the laser scanners and to start incorporating them into our work."
The Central Virginia Regional Crash Team is comprised of the Bedford Police Department, Bedford Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, Vinton Police Department, Rocky Mount Police Department, Franklin County Sheriff's Office and the National Park Service. The team works very closely with the James River Regional Crash Team which is comprised of the Lynchburg Police Department, the Campbell County Sheriff's Office, Amherst County Sheriff's office and the Virginia State Police.
"AREVA is committed to the communities in which we do business," said Chief Operating Officer Michael Rencheck. "This is another example of our efforts to be a good corporate citizen and to give back to our community."

July26, 2011
For Immediate Release

Bedford Cnty/VA Health Dept warns residents to make sure their pet and livestock rabies vaccinations are current

Over the next two days, Health Dept personnel will be going door-to-door to warn residents that a skunk the Dept collected on July 11 from the Longwood Ave/ Oakwood Ave/Greenwood Cemetery area tested positive for rabies.

Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and central nervous system. It is transmitted from animal to animal and from animal to human through the saliva of an infected animal. Post-exposure treatment for humans must be administered prior to the appearance of any symptoms. Left untreated, rabies is fatal.

In order to protect your family and pets from rabies, remember to:
1. Vaccinate dogs and cats against rabies.
2. Report all animal bites to your physician, the Local Health Dept or Animal Control Office.
3. Stay away from stray or wild animals. These animals are generally not protected against rabies and may bite without warning.

Please contact the Bedford County Health Dept if you should have any questions or concerns regarding the rabies. Todd Fowler, Environmental Health Supv, Central VA Health District, 540-586-7952, ext 127

If you see any animal acting suspiciously, call 9-1-1.

From James E. Day, Chief of Police

June 21, 2011
For Immediate Release:

Bedford's 2ND National Night Out

[Bedford, Val]— On Tuesday August 2Nd citizens of Bedford are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide fir the "28 annual National Night Out." (NNO) crime and drug prevention event. National Night out which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and co sponsored locally with the Bedford Police Department will involve over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, US territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all over 37 million people are expected to participate in 'Americas Night Out Against Crime'.

National Night Out is designed to (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate sport for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

In 2010 Bedford held it's 1st annual National Night Out the event drew about 150 people to the Farmers Market. Local businesses provided door prizes which were given to citizens throughout the night. Many of our partners were at the event explaining how they assist use in preventing crimes. After the event the Bedford Police Department was recognized by the National Association of Town Watch as a **Rookie of the Year**.

This year from 7pm to 10pm on August second the citizens of Bedford and across the nation are asked to lock the doors, turn on the outside lights and spend the evening at the Farmers Market in Bedford with neighbors and police officers. Come out to the event and enjoy music, fun and door prizes.

Contact: Lt. Todd Foreman, Bedford Police Department, 540-587-6011

July 12, 2011
For Immediate Release

On Wednesday, July 13, 2011 an organization named Friendship International will be meeting with City Manager Charles Kolakowski at 9:00 a.m. at the City Municipal Building for a presentation of a proclamation. As their website explains "Friendship Circle is today's fastest growing Jewish organization for children with special needs. With over 79 locations worldwide the Friendship Circle has cultivated friendships between 5,000 special children and close to 11,000 teen volunteers."

Friendship International has a team of three cyclists who started cycling from Livingston, NJ on June 26 to raise awareness for special needs children. They will continue through east coast states including Virginia, then through Louisiana and Texas and on to California. Their trek will cover approximately four thousand miles and take them to twenty Friendship International chapters where they will meet children with special needs and the community at large.

For more information on Friendship International and Bike4 Friendship, see the following links:

http://www.friendshipcircle.com/
http://www.friendshipcircle.com/bike_trip.asp

June 24, 2011
For Immediate release

The Central Virginia Highway Traffic Safety Board would like to congratulate the following member agencies for placing in the recent Virginia Law Enforcement Chief's Challenge highway traffic safety awards.

The Bedford Police Department won 1st place in Virginia for the municipal police department with 11 – 25 officers and for winning a special award for Bicycle / Pedestrian Safety.

The Lynchburg Police Department won 1st place in Virginia for the municipal police department with 126 – 300 officers and for winning a special child passenger safety award.

The Amherst County Sheriff's Office won 2nd place both in the Virginia challenge and also 2nd place in the national challenge for sheriff's offices with 51 to 75 deputies.

The Virginia Association of Chief's of Police will present the state awards at their annual conference in September in Norfolk. The national awards will be presented by the International Association of Chief's of Police at their annual conference in October in Chicago.

The awards are based on entries prepared by the participating agencies that highlight their traffic safety education and enforcement activities in the past calendar year. Judges award points to the agencies in the six areas that comprise a comprehensive traffic safety program: an agency's policies and guidelines, training of officers, incentives and recognition,

June 17, 2011
For Immediate release

Reference: Animal Hoarding Woodside Court

Bedford Police Department

After our investigation beginning 06-16-2011 on Woodside Court, the following warrants were obtained on Carolyn Andrews Creasy, 53 years of age, Bedford:

2 counts of Animal Cruelty or Neglect;
1 count fail to vaccinate for rabies;
1 count own more than 5 animals within the City of Bedford.

Contact: **Lt. Todd Foreman**
Bedford Police Department
(540) 587-6011

May 20,2011

For immediate release

The Bedford Police Department will kick off the 2011 Click It or Ticket campaign working with Central Virginia Highway Traffic Safety Board by working a traffic checking detail on Rt. 29 on the Monacan Bridge Friday May 20th from noon to 2pm.

This check point begins the 2011 national Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement mobilization, May 23-June 5.

Local law enforcement agencies will be conducting a number of enhanced enforcement programs over the next several weeks to include traffic check points, saturation patrols, education events and child safety seat checks. During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts – both day and night.

"Law enforcement will be cracking down on Click It or Ticket violators around the clock. Local motorists should be prepared to buckle up. If law enforcement finds you on the road unbuckled anytime or anywhere, you can expect to get a

ticket — not a warning. No excuses and no exceptions," said Chief James Day.

"Remember this May 23 to June 5: It's Click It or Ticket. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life", says Captain Jim Bennett.

One of the goals of the Bedford Police Department is to reduce highway fatalities and increase traffic safety in Bedford and keep the citizens safe.

May 13, 2011

For immediate release.

Two arrests have been made for vandalism at the Longwood Avenue cemeteries in the City of Bedford which occurred on May 2, 2011.

Investigators with Bedford Police interviewed several subjects this week and as a result of their investigation, two juveniles from the Bedford area have been charged with the following:

1) 18.2-137 Code of Virginia; Injuring, etc., any property, monument. This is a Class 6 felony when the amount of damage exceeds $1000, which it did in this case.
2) 18.2-127B Code of Virginia; Injuries to cemeteries, burial grounds, etc. which is a Class 6 felony.

During the inquiry into the vandalism at the cemeteries, City investigators also found that the two juveniles had been involved in a larceny of a go-cart from the 1200 Block Oakwood Street. They each are charged with:

3) 18.2-95 Code of Virginia; Grand Larceny. This is an unclassed felony and is punishable by not less than one year or more than twenty years imprisonment with conviction.

Petitions were served and both subjects were incarcerated at the Lynchburg Juvenile facility pending a hearing before a Judge.

May 2, 2011

For Immediate Release

$500 Reward Offered

On May 2, 2011, the City of Bedford Police responded to the Greenwood Cemetery located in the 1200 block of Longwood Avenue regarding property damage. On their arrival they discovered that sometime over the previous weekend, someone had damaged approximately forty (40) headstones. The culprits had pushed over headstones separating them from their base. Other stones were pushed over still attached to their base.

Damage to the headstones is estimated to be in excess of $2000.

There is a $500 reward offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone involved in this crime.

If you have information relative to this crime, please call the Bedford Police Department at (540) 587-6011 or Central Virginia Crime Stoppers at 1-888-798-5900.

April 28, 2011
For Immediate Release

On Wednesday, April 27, 2011, at approximately 10:40 pm Bedford Police responded to the 800 block of Judd Street in the City of Bedford in reference to a stolen Chevrolet truck. The vehicle had been parked in front of the victim's house with the keys in it. Shortly afterwards, a Bedford officer saw the vehicle on North Bridge Street and stopped it. Subsequently, Curtis J. Conner, white male, age 21 of Bedford County was arrested. Mr. Conner advised the officer that he had just been released from the Blue Ridge Regional Jail in Bedford and was trying to get to Roanoke.

The vehicle was returned undamaged to the owner.

Curtis Conner was taken to the Blue Ridge Regional Jail and charged with motor vehicle theft and driving with a suspended operator's license.

April 28, 2011
For Immediate Release:

Please LOCK YOUR VEHICLES

Over the past two months, an increasing number of vehicle break-ins has occurred throughout Bedford city. Be sure to lock your vehicles--whether at home or at work--and put valuables out of sight.

A recent arrest was made due to an alert neighbor calling in a suspicious person, but the thefts have continued.

After removing valuables from view, lock your vehicle doors. This discourages more casual thieves looking for an easy opportunity. It will also deter those going into an unlocked vehicle to look for a trunk or hood release button in order to steal auto parts or the contents of a trunk.

If you see suspicious activity, report it while it is happening.

Try to get a description of the person or their vehicle, but do not confront.

Call 9-1-1

Don't think you are bothering the police by calling them to report suspicious activity. It's our job to detect and apprehend criminals but we're unable to be in everyone's neighborhood 24 hours a day, so we need your help.

So please, call if you see suspicious activity--and lock those vehicles!

From James E. Day, Chief of Police

April 12, 2011
For Immediate Release:

The Bedford Police Department will be conducting a free Child Passenger Safety Seat Check on Saturday April 16, 2011 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Bedford Food Lion. The objective of this seat check event is to increase public awareness about the importance of correctly installed child passenger safety seats and how to choose the seat that is best suited for your child.

"We would like to encourage parents, grandparents and caregivers to take a few moments out of the day to have their child's safety seat checked. It will give them peace of mind knowing their child is traveling safely." says Chief Jim Day of the Bedford Police

Department. "Locally, more than 85 percent of child safety seats we check are installed incorrectly and nationally that average is around 80 percent. Having the seat checked for proper installation greatly reduces the chance of injury during a motor vehicle crash."

For further questions contact the Bedford Police Department at 540-587-6011.

April 1, 2011
For Immediate Release:

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Three Seconds. That's All it Takes.

80% of all crashes and 65% of all near-crashes recently studied by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute involved driver inattention within 3 seconds of the crash.

Check out these statistics to learn how your behavior behind the wheel puts you at an increased risk for a crash.

Behavior	Increased Risk
Texting (illegal in Virginia)	23 times
Reaching for a moving object	9 times
Driving drowsy	4 times
Looking at an external object	3.7 times
Reading	3.4 times
Applying makeup	3 times

(Source: Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Naturalistic Driving Study, Relative Risk Estimates for Crash/Near Crash Inattention Events)

Researchers at the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety have found that using a cell phone increases crash risk by 4 times. Since cell phone use occurs more frequently and for longer durations, this is the #1 source of driver inattention behind the wheel.

In 2009, 756 people died on the roadways of Virginia. There were more than 116,744 crashes and 62,796 people injured (DMV). Driver inattention was a leading factor in many of these crashes. That's a big price to pay for a little distracted driving. Keep your eyes and mind on the road

March 25, 2011
For Immediate Release:

On March 17, 2011 an individual passed a fraudulent traveler's check at a local CVS pharmacy. This person is described as a black male, approximately six feet tall in his late twenties with short hair. He was wearing a light colored shirt and blue jeans. There may have been another individual with this subject that stayed outside.

Suspects may have left in a burgundy or maroon four-door vehicle similar to a Nissan or Infinity.

There have been other similar crimes committed in the region. If you have any information regarding this crime, please contact the Bedford Police Department at (540) 587-6011 or CrimeStoppers at 1-888-798-5900.

3-11-2011 For Immediate Release

Reference: Statewide Tornado Drill & Community Warning Siren System Activation

In conjunction with the Statewide Tornado Drill that will be conducted on Tuesday, March 5, 2011, the City of Bedford will activate its Community Warning Siren. The test will begin at 9:45 AM and will be completed by 10:00 AM. Normal day to day activities will be affected during this time. The full system test is necessary to ensure the siren will function as expected in the event of an actual emergency. The test will include a high/low tone lasting for three minutes followed by a constant tone also lasting three minutes.

Citizens and businesses are encouraged to take this opportunity to practice their disaster plans. Also, check your emergency disaster kits and change out any items that are damaged or out of date. For more information on developing a disaster plan or preparing a disaster kit, you can visit www.ready.gov or www.vaemergency.com .

For further information, please contact the Emergency Management office at (540) 587-6011 between 8:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

3-8-2011 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On March 7, 2011 at approximately 11:00 p.m., City of Bedford Police responded to the parking lot of the Bedford County Sheriff's Office on Falling Creek Road in reference to a possible hit and run vehicle crash that had occurred in the City. On their arrival, officers spoke with a Janice Carter, age 48 of Lynch Station. She reported that her estranged boyfriend, Donald E. Hawkins, Jr., age 29 of Bedford County, had chased her vehicle with his vehicle down E. Main Street and into the parking lot of CVS located at the corner of E. Main and Independence Blvd. She attempted to turn around and leave the lot and drive to the Sheriff's Office. Ms. Carter reported that Hawkins caught up to her and rammed her vehicle with his, backed up and struck her vehicle again.

Ms. Carter had minor injuries and was transported to Bedford Memorial Hospital where she was treated.

Donald E. Hawkins, Jr. was located and arrested in Thaxton. He has been charged with attempted murder first degree, damage to attended property and violation of a protective order. Other charges may be forthcoming as the investigation continues.

03/07/2011 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

On Sunday, March 6, 2011 at approximately 4:00 a.m. a resident of the 1000 block of Gum Street in the City of Bedford contacted the Police Department and reported a robbery. The Police were advised that several men had entered the residence by force and held the occupants at gunpoint while accomplices ransacked the home looking for money.

One resident was injured and treated at Bedford Memorial Hospital and released.

The culprits were described by the victims as black males. They left with a quantity of money and were reported to have entered a vehicle and traveled north on Peaks Street.

The investigation is continuing.

02/25/2011 - For Immediate Release:

Traffic Pattern Change Alert

After several accidents involving tractor-trailer trucks turning onto N. Bridge Street from Main Street in the City of Bedford, a traffic pattern change has been made. This is subsequent to a number of accidents involving turning trucks in which poles and buildings at the intersection were struck. A number of these accidents involved hit and run drivers.

All through trucks are prohibited from turning onto N. Bridge from Main Street. Signs pointing out alternate routes were installed in 2009, however through trucks were still using N. Bridge to connect with Route 43 North, Route 122 North and Forest Road (Route 221 East). Additional signage has been installed to direct truckers to use Independence Blvd to connect to Forest Road and Longwood Avenue for access to all north bound routes as well as east bound Forest Road.

The signs were installed Sunday, February 20 and enforcement by the police will begin immediately.

01/26/2011 - For Immediate Release:

On 11-16-2010 at approximately 10:20 p.m., Mr. Hobart Markham and Shirley English were driving south on Peaks St. in the City of Bedford. A severe storm was moving through the area and had knocked power lines and a large tree down. As Mr. Markham was driving he drove into the tree which had fallen into the road. The vehicle was damaged significantly and Mr. Markham and Ms. English had to be extricated from the vehicle. Mr. Markham and Ms. English were both wearing their seat-belts. The use of their seat-belts saved them from being seriously injured or killed. Mr. Steve Goodwin from the Virginia Highway Safety Office presented the award during the City Council meeting. For more on this program see: http://www.cvsa.org/programs/saved_belt.aspx

07/13/201 - For Immediate Release:

$500 Reward Offered

The City of Bedford is offering a $500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person(s) involved in the theft of street signs. Over the past year there have been over one-hundred signs stolen at a cost of more than $7000 to City of Bedford taxpayers.

The stolen signs have been primarily street name signs but also include stop signs and yield signs which can severely impact public safety. In addition, the absence of street name signs can delay the response of police, fire and rescue units. A number of areas within the City have been put under video surveillance in an effort to apprehend the persons responsible for these thefts.

If you have information regarding the theft of street signs, please call the Bedford Police Department at (540) 587-6011, 9-1-1 or Central Virginia Crime Stoppers at 1-888-798-5900.