CITY OF BEDFORD

A MAIN STREET CITY

POLICE DEPARTMENT
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PRESS RELEASE

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 Also, check your emergency disaster kits and change out any items that are damaged or out of date.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.