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

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.