

# **Bladensburg Police Department**

**Monthly Report**

**To**

**Mayor & Town Council**



*“Partners With The Community”*

***October 2015***

**Respectfully Submitted by:**

**Charles L. Owens  
Chief of Police**

# Department of Public Safety

## VISION

A recognized and regional leader in providing comprehensive law enforcement services

## MISSION

The Bladensburg Police Department, in partnership with our community, is dedicated to:

- Preventing crime
- Enforcing laws
- Resolving community problems
- Improving the quality of life

## GOALS

**Maximize department effectiveness targeting the reduction of crime**

- Focused deployment of resources
- Target crime analysis strategies toward worst offenders
- Resolve chronic nuisances and criminal activity using code enforcement, public works, training, and community

**Provide outstanding service to our community**

- Recruit and retain a highly qualified, diverse workforce
- Emphasize customer service internally and externally
- Recognize excellent performance and service
- Maintain professional standards through training, leadership, and mentoring

**Identify and prepare resources for successful response to local and regional public safety needs**

- Identify and leverage new technologies to address emerging issues
- Update, implement, and train emergency preparedness plans
- Maintain and develop partnerships to address criminal justice needs

**Accountability   Community   Integrity   Service**

<b>Mission Statement</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Crime Prevention Tips</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>Police Blotter</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Message of the Chief of Police</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Statistical Abstract</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>Part 1 Crimes</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Holiday fraud—How not to be scammed



### Holiday Shopping Tips from the FBI

This holiday season the FBI reminds shoppers that cyber criminals aggressively create new ways to steal money and personal information. Scammers use many techniques to fool potential victims, including conducting fraudulent auction sales, reshipping merchandise purchased with stolen credit cards, and selling fraudulent or stolen gift cards through auction sites at discounted prices.

### Fraudulent Classified Ads and Auction Sales

Internet criminals post classified ads and auctions for products they do not have, and make the scam work by using stolen credit cards. Fraudsters receive an order from a victim, charge the victim's credit card for the amount of the order, then use a separate, stolen credit card for the actual purchase. They pocket the purchase price obtained from the victim's credit card and have the merchant ship the item directly to the victim. Consequently, an item purchased from an online auction but received directly from the merchant is a strong indication of fraud. Victims of such a scam not only lose the money paid to the fraudster, but may be liable for receiving stolen goods.

Shoppers may help avoid these scams by using caution and not providing financial information directly to the seller, as fraudulent sellers will use this information to purchase items for their schemes. Always use a legitimate payment service to ensure a safe, legitimate purchase.

As for product delivery, fraudsters posing as legitimate delivery services offer reduced or free shipping to customers through auction sites. They perpetuate this scam by providing fake shipping labels to the victim. The fraudsters do not pay for delivery of the packages; therefore, delivery service providers intercept the packages for nonpayment and the victim loses the money paid for the purchase of the product.

Diligently check each seller's rating and feedback along with their number of sales and the dates on which feedback was posted. Be wary of a seller with 100% positive feedback, with a low total number of feedback postings, or with all feedback posted around the same date and time.

### Gift Card Scam

Be careful when purchasing gift cards through auction sites or classified ads. It is safest to purchase gift cards directly from the merchant or retail store. If the gift card merchant discovers that your card is fraudulent, the merchant will deactivate the gift card and refuse to honor it for purchases. Victims of this scam lose the money paid for the gift card purchase.

### Phishing and Smishing Schemes

In phishing schemes, a fraudster poses as a legitimate entity and uses emails and scam web sites to obtain victims' personal information, such as account numbers, user names, passwords, etc. Smishing is the act of sending fraudulent text messages to bait a victim into revealing personal information.

Be leery of emails or text messages that indicate a problem or question regarding your financial accounts. In this scam, fraudsters direct victims to follow a link or call a number to update an account or correct a purported problem. The link directs the victim to a fraudulent web site or message that appears legitimate. Instead, the site allows the fraudster to steal any personal information the victim provides.

Current smishing schemes involve fraudsters calling victims' cell phones offering to lower the interest rates for credit cards the victims do not even possess. If a victim asserts that they do not own the credit card, the caller hangs up. These fraudsters call from TRAC cell phones that do not have voice mail, or the phone provides a constant busy signal when called, rendering these calls virtually untraceable.

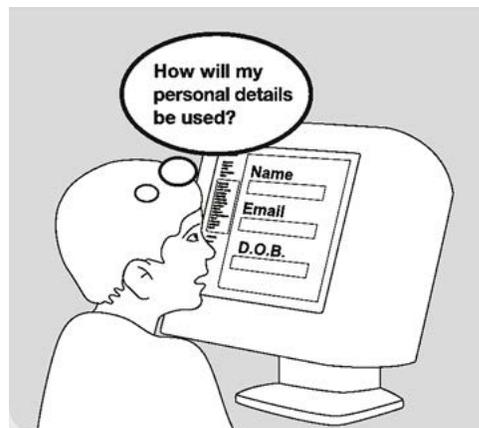
Another scam involves fraudsters directing victims, via email, to a spoofed web site. A spoofed web site is a fake site that misleads the victim into providing personal information, which is routed to the scammer's computer.

Phishing schemes related to deliveries are also rampant. Legitimate delivery service providers neither email shippers regarding scheduled deliveries nor state when a package is intercepted or being temporarily held. Consequently, emails informing of such delivery issues are phishing scams that can lead to personal information breaches and financial losses.

## Tips

Here are some tips you can use to avoid becoming a victim of cyber fraud:

- Don't give out personal or financial information on the internet.
- Deal directly with reputable websites and stores.
- What appears to be a huge bargain is a fraud.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited email.
- Be cautious of email claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders. Scan the attachments for viruses if possible.
- Avoid filling out forms contained in email messages that ask for personal information.
- Always compare the link in the email with the link to which you are directed and determine if they match and will lead you to a legitimate site.
- Log directly onto the official web site for the business identified in the email, instead of "linking" to it from an unsolicited email. If the email appears to be from your bank, credit card issuer, or other company you deal with frequently, your statements or official correspondence from the business will provide the proper contact information.
- Contact the actual business that supposedly sent the email to verify if the email is genuine.
- If you are asked to act quickly, or there is an emergency, it may be a scam. Fraudsters create a sense of urgency to get you to act quickly.
- Verify any requests for personal information from any business or financial institution by contacting them using the main contact information.



**Remember, if it looks too good to be true, it probably is!**

---

# POLICE BLOTTER

---

October 2015

---

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Fresh produce is available at the Town Green on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Compliments of Graceland Bladensburg House of Hope.

## COPS

### Events

National Bullying Prevention Month Walk and Rally sponsored by We Lead by Example, Inc., and Endorsed by the Prince George's County Education Coalition.

Bladensburg High School Homecoming Parade.

### School Visits

Visited Bladensburg schools and spoke with Elementary students about Halloween safety.

### Enforcement

Assisted with directed patrols relative to a Candle Light Vigil in the area of Mattapony Shopping Center.

### Meetings

Maryland Police Training Commission Instructors' Conference.

Seton Square Community Forum.

### Police Explorers

Members learned the importance of teamwork and self-discipline.

## THE BEAT

October 1, Missing Person in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 2, Missing Person in the 5400 block of Taylor Street.

October 3, Domestic in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue. An adult male was arrested.

October 3, Stolen Vehicle in the 4200 of 58th Avenue.

October 3, Theft in the 4200 block of 56th Avenue.

October 3, Robbery in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 4, Fraud in the 5100 block of Annapolis Road.

October 4, Domestic in the 6000 block of Emerson Street.

October 5, Fraud in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 5, Robbery in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

October 6, Robbery in the 4100 block of 53rd Avenue.

October 6, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 6, Warrant Service in the 4900 block of Tilden Road. An adult male was arrested.

October 6, Domestic in the 5200 block of Taussig Road.

October 6, Assault in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

October 7, Theft in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 8, Theft in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 9, Stolen Vehicle in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 9, Vandalism in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 9, Vandalism in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 10, Alcohol Violation in the area of 48th and Quincy Streets. An adult male was arrested for Driving Under the Influence (DUI).

October 11, Assault in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 11, Domestic in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 12, Missing Person in the 4200 block of Edmonston Road.

October 12, Theft in the 4100 block of 54th Street.

October 12, Vandalism in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 12, Burglary in the 5400 block of Doris Court.

October 12, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 12, Trespassing in the 5300 block of Newton Street.

October 12, Lost property in the 5300 block of Newton Street.

October 12, Warrant Service in the 4900 block of 57th Avenue.

October 13, Stolen Vehicle in the 4500 block of 57th Avenue.

October 13, Homicide in the 5600 block of Mary A Court.

October 13, Attempted Homicide in the 5600 block of Mary A Court.

October 13, Theft in the 5200 block of Quincy Street.

October 13, Alcohol violation in the 4200 block of 57th Avenue. An adult male was arrested for DUI.

October 13, Vandalism in 5100 block of Upshur Street.

October 14, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 15, Assault in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 16, Vandalism in the 4100 block of

Kenilworth Avenue.

October 16, Warrant Service in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 16, Vandalism in the 5300 block of Tilden Road.

October 16, Missing Person in the 4200 block of 55th Avenue.

October 17, Weapons Offense in the 5400 block of Taussig Road.

October 18, Assault in the 5200 block of Quincy Street. An adult male was charged.

October 18, Theft in the 3900 block of 48th Street.

October 18, Warrant Service in the 4900 block of Tilden Road. An adult male was arrested.

October 19, Theft in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 19, Burglary in the 5400 block of Doris Court.

October 20, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 20, Recovered Stolen Vehicle in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 20, Recovered Stolen Vehicle in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 20, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 20, Domestic in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

October 21, Burglary in the 4100 block of 51st Street .

October 23, Weapons Offense in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue. A juvenile male was arrested.

October 23, Theft in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 23, Theft in the 4900 block of Upshur Street.

October 23, Missing Person in the 4200 block of 53rd Avenue.

October 24, Domestic in the 6000 block of Emerson Street.

October 24, Stolen Vehicle in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 25, Domestic in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

October 25, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 25, Theft in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

October 25, Assault in the 4100 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 26, Vandalism in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 26, Recovered Vehicle in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

October 27, Theft in the 5300 block of Newton Street.

October 27, Theft in the 4500 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 27, Burglary in the 4100 block of 53rd Avenue.

October 28, Stolen Vehicle in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

October 28, Missing Person in the 6000 block of Logon Way.

October 28, Stolen Vehicle in the 4100 block of 51st Street.

October 28, Stolen Vehicle in the 5400 block of Varnum Street.

October 29, Vandalism in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 29, Sex Offense in the 4200 block of 57th Avenue.

October 29, Missing Person in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

October 30, Theft in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

October 30, Recovered Vehicle 4100 block 53rd Avenue.

October 30, Alcohol Violation in the 5200 block of Tilden Road.

October 31, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 31, Domestic in the 5200 block of Varnum Street.

October 31, Missing Person in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

October 31, Vandalism in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

## **INVESTIGATIONS**

Investigators arrested Von Lee Brown of Fieldstone Way, Hyattsville, Maryland, for the false report of a carjacking. The alleged carjacking was reported on October 5th at the 7-Eleven store in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road. Brown was also wanted by the Prince George's County Sheriff's Office for failure-to-appear.

Prince George's County Police investigators are working a double-shooting on Mary A Court. One victim died of a gunshot wound. The second victim was injured by gunfire.

Investigators arrested a 17-year-old juvenile on weapons charges following the discharge of firearm inside an apartment in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue. The bullet penetrated the apartment floor and entered the apartment below, subjecting the occupants to substantial risk of serious injury.

Criminal Investigations Division and the COPS Unit conducted a Gun Violence Reduction Initiative in the Town. During the initiative, two traffic stops were made, two suspicious vehicles were investigated and eight field interviews were conducted. All persons contacted during the initiative were interviewed about gun violence, armed persons and gang activities.

As a result of this initiative, Nelson Josae Lopez of Spring Road, Bladensburg, Maryland, was arrested for drug possession. Investigators seized a quantity of cocaine from Lopez.

## Message from the Chief of Police

### Gun Violence Reduction Initiative

The Bladensburg Police Department was awarded a grant from The Governor's Office on Crime Control & Prevention (Grant Award #GVRG-2016-0001). Goals of this initiative are to recover firearms; make handgun violation arrests, or other arrests related to firearms or gang activities; and to further conduct interviews related to firearms investigations. Officers are conducting directed patrols and specialized investigations to "Reduce Gun Violence."

### Navigating Roadways

#### Fall Driving Tips

Autumn is a beautiful time of year, many head out for an afternoon drive to look at the colors. It is still important to pay attention to driving hazards as well. Here are four tips to help keep you safe while out on the roads.



**STEER CLEAR OF WET LEAVES:** Wet leaves are slippery and reduce traction. Treat wet leaves the same way as you would for icy road surfaces.

**MAKE ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE LIGHT:** A shorter days means less light and makes it more difficult to see pedestrians, cyclists, and children playing in the late afternoon.

**WATCH FOR FROST:** Keep a windshield scraper and small broom in your car to keep windows clean. Frost covered roads and sidewalks are very slippery. Always adjust your driving to road conditions.

**PLAN AHEAD FOR HARSHER WEATHER:** Have your car winterized before the winter storm season sets in. Keeping your car in good condition decreases your chance of being stranded in cold weather.

## Pedestrian Tips

Be Safe and Be Seen: Make yourself visible to drivers. Wear bright/light colored clothing and reflective materials. Carry a flashlight when walking at night. Cross the street in a well-lit area at night.



### **BE SMART AND ALERT - AVOID DANGEROUS BEHAVIORS:**

- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing so drivers can see you.
- Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- Stay sober; walking while impaired increases your chance of being struck.
- Don't assume vehicles will stop. Make eye contact with drivers, don't just look at the vehicle. If a driver is on a cell phone, he or she may not be paying enough attention to drive safely.
- Don't rely solely on pedestrian signals. Look before you cross the road.
- Be alert to engine noise or backup lights on cars when in parking lots and near on-street parking spaces.

### **BE CAREFUL AT CROSSINGS: LOOK BEFORE YOU STEP**

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections, if possible.
- Obey traffic signals such as WALK/DON'T WALK signs.
- Look left, right, and left again before crossing a street.
- Watch for turning vehicles. Make sure the driver sees you and will stop for you.
- Look across ALL lanes you must cross and visually clear each lane before proceeding. Even if one motorist stops, do not presume drivers in other lanes can see you and will stop for you.
- Don't wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while crossing.

## Bicyclist Tips

### **ALWAYS RIDE WITH TRAFFIC AND FOLLOW THE RULES OF THE ROAD:**

- You are better off riding with the flow of traffic, not against it. Crash data tells us that getting hit from behind is extremely unlikely.
- You are more predictable and visible to motorists, especially at intersections and driveways.
- Ride in a straight line, not in and out of cars, and use hand signals when turning and stopping.
- Obey traffic signs, signals, and lane markings and yield to traffic when appropriate, including pedestrians.



### **DON'T RIDE ON THE SIDEWALK:**

- Although you might think it's a safer option, motorists are simply not looking for bicyclists on the sidewalk, especially those riding against the direction of traffic.
- At every driveway and intersection, you are at greater risk of being hit by a motorist than if you were riding on the road with traffic.
- Pedestrians will thank you for riding on the road as well.
- Ride on the trail, paved shoulder, bike lane, or bike route. You still need to follow the rules of the road and watch out for your fellow travelers. Ride to the right, signal your turns, obey traffic signs and signals.

### **BE PREDICTABLE AND VISIBLE:**

- Try not to be hesitant or do things that motorists and other travelers may not be expecting.
- Make sure everyone can see you and knows where you are and where you are going.
- If riding in the dark, use headlights, taillights, and reflectors and wear reflective materials and brightly colored clothing.
- Do not wear headphones or talk on a cell phone while bicycling.

## **WATCH FOR STUFF ON THE ROAD OR TRAIL THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU FALL OR SWERVE:**

- Rocks, trash, storm grates, wet leaves, potholes, gravel, railroad tracks, and even wet pavement markings can all send you flying.
- Also watch for parked cars, doors opening, and cars pulling in and out of driveways.

## **WATCH FOR TURNING TRAFFIC:**

Most car/bike collisions happen at intersections and driveways when motorists or bicyclists are turning.

At every intersection and driveway, keep a careful eye out for motorists turning right in front of you – you may be going faster than they think. Also, look for motorists turning left across your path – drivers are looking for gaps in traffic and may not be paying attention to anything other than other motor vehicles.

## **Activity**

- October 2, PEPCO Hurricane Preparedness Teleconference.
- October 6, Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) monthly meeting.
- October 12, Council work session and public meeting.
- October 24, Strategic planning community forum.
- October 26, Apartment Managers business forum.
- October 29, Seton Square community forum.
- October 31, Seasonal Halloween Security Plan. Additional patrol officers were assigned to directed patrol duties throughout the town. There were no reported incidents related to Halloween activities.
- Attended all staff meetings.

Community Service Unit officers work in partnership with community members, community groups, schools, businesses, other governmental departments and agencies to help bring all available resources to address crime and disorder problems. For more information about our Community Service Unit, call the COP's Program Coordinator, PFC David Calloway at (301) 927-8126, or stop-by the office at 5012 57 Avenue A3, Bladensburg, MD

## Statistical Abstract

<b>Traffic Enforcement</b>	<b>October 2015</b>
Vehicle Stops	140
Citations	108
Warnings	76
Repair Orders (Issued)	53
Total Violations	237
Parking Citations	12

<b>Automobile Collisions</b>	<b>October 2015</b>
Fatality	1
Injury	2
Property Damage	12
Pedestrian	1
Hit & Run	3
Total Collisions	19

<b>Departmental Activity</b>	<b>October 2015</b>
Arrests	18
Assigned to Calls (in hours)	1,166
Calls for Service	578
Court Appearances (in hours)	48
Mutual Aid (in hours)	4
Off-Duty Response (in hours)	1
Prisoner Processing (in hours)	52
Self Initiated Service (in hours)	263
Special Activity (in hours)	15
Training (in hours)	34

**Bladensburg Police Department  
Part 1 Offense Comparison**

<b>3014</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	9	5	3	6	11	3	9	11	14	7	5	8	91
Burglary	18	8	10	3	11	7	8	7	4	6	12	4	98
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Larceny-Theft	29	13	9	19	31	21	15	16	21	28	19	28	249
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	5	5	5	5	7	6	4	6	10	19	3	80
Robbery	5	3	1	0	5	1	4	2	4	7	4	4	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>559</b>

<b>2015</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	2	4	4	4	8	4	8	6	6	6			52
Burglary	2	4	6	9	4	7	2	3	3	4			44
Forcible Rape	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1
Larceny-Theft	24	14	17	14	19	18	20	18	29	23			196
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	3	3	6	6	5	6	5	8	9			53
Robbery	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	0	2	3			19
<b>Total</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>366</b>

<b>Variance</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	-77.78%	-20.00%	33.33%	-33.33%	-27.27%	33.33%	-11.11%	-45.45%	-57.14%	-14.29%			-42.86%
Burglary	-88.89%	-50.00%	-40.00%	200.00%	-63.64%	0.00%	-75.00%	-57.14%	-25.00%	-33.33%			-55.10%
Forcible Rape	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%			100.00%
Homicide	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	-100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%			0.00%
Larceny-Theft	-17.24%	7.69%	88.89%	-26.32%	-38.71%	-14.29%	33.33%	12.50%	38.10%	-17.86%			-21.29%
Motor Vehicle Theft	-60.00%	-40.00%	-40.00%	20.00%	20.00%	-28.57%	0.00%	25.00%	33.33%	-10.00%			-33.75%
Robbery	20.00%	-33.33%	100.00%	100.00%	-80.00%	0.00%	-75.00%	-100.00%	-50.00%	-57.14%			-52.50%
<b>Monthly Comparison</b>	<b>-30</b>	<b>-6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-25</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>-8</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-12</b>			<b>-193</b>
	<b>-45.45%</b>	<b>-17.65%</b>	<b>14.29%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-39.68%</b>	<b>-10.26%</b>	<b>-11.90%</b>	<b>-20.00%</b>	<b>-2.04%</b>	<b>-20.69%</b>			<b>-34.53%</b>

