

VWCC

Annual Crime Report

2003



## **Virginia Western Community College Police Department**

Virginia Western Community College has had its own police department since 1985. We currently have six full-time police officers and two part-time security officers. All full-time officers are graduates of the Cardinal Criminal Justice Academy. All full-time officers are sworn in through the City of Roanoke court system with all the enforcement and arrest authority given any other police department. The VWCCPD conducts its own investigations of incidents that occur on the campus.

All full-time officers are also certified medical First Responders.

The VWCCPD has mutual aid agreements with the Roanoke City PD and also maintains communication with other agencies, including the Virginia State Police, to ensure that if needed we can rely on effective and timely assistance in any situation.

The VWCCPD's first priority is the safety of the college's students, visitors, faculty and staff.

### **Mission and Goals of the Police Department**

The Virginia Western Police Department is dedicated to providing protection of persons and property for the college campus and adjacent or surrounding streets and properties. Services provided by our department include law enforcement, medical (First Responder) aid, and fire prevention/response. These services will be provided with professionalism and courtesy.

To accomplish these purposes, the employees and members of the department are dedicated to achieving the following goals:

- To identify criminal offenders and criminal activity and, when appropriate, to apprehend offenders and participate in subsequent court proceedings.
- To prevent the commission of crimes by reducing the opportunities for such crimes.
- To create and maintain a feeling of safety and security within the college.
- To facilitate the movement of people and vehicles.
- To provide an environment that facilitates achieving department goals while providing for the career needs of its employees.
- To provide a vehicle for the provision of college service demands.

In addition to normal policing of the campus, the department is also equipped to assist motorists with jump-starting dead batteries, and to open vehicles that have been locked with the keys inside.

Our department maintains the campus Lost-and-Found repository. Items can be reported lost or claimed from the repository via our office in the College Services Building at the end of parking lot #9 near the intersection of Colonial Ave and Overland Rd.

## Reporting Crime to VWCCPD

There are Call Stations in several locations around campus, as well as in every elevator on campus. VWCCPD is also accessible by telephone, via the Internet, and by coming in person to the VWCCPD office (College Services Building room 101).

### Emergency Call Station Locations:

- 1) On the wall outside the College Services Building
- 2) Between Webber Hall and the Student Activities Center; South Campus
- 3) In the middle of the Four Seasons mall; North Campus

All three Call Stations will dial the campus police directly, and all have blue lights on top that will flash when the station is activated.

### Elevator Call Buttons:

All of the elevators on campus have an Emergency Call button that will dial the campus police phone number, and automatically let us know the location of the elevator.

### Phone Numbers and Email:

Default/Emergency number: [540] 857-7979 (77979 from an office phone)

Dennis Deacon (Chief of Police)  
[540] 857-7797  
(77797 from an office phone)  
ddeacon@vw.vccs.edu

Sgt. Lennie Atwood  
[540] 857-6479  
(76479 from an office phone)  
latwood@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Mark Bennardo  
[540] 857-6479  
(76480 from an office phone)  
mbennardo@vw.vccs.edu

Officer David Blankenship  
[540] 857-6479  
(76480 from an office phone)  
dblankenship@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Greg Roseberry  
[540] 857-6479  
(76480 from an office phone)  
groseberry@vw.vccs.edu

Officer Guy Gibson  
[540] 857-6479  
(76480 from an office phone)  
ggibson@vw.vccs.edu

VWCCPD Dispatcher  
(when available)  
[540] 857-6108  
(76108 from an office phone)

When reporting a crime/hazard/situation to VWCCPD, please be prepared to give the call taker specific information regarding the nature of the emergency or complaint, including:

- 1) The location of the crime or emergency
- 2) How long ago it took place, or whether it is an imminent or ongoing offense
- 3) An estimate of the number of people involved (including descriptions)
- 4) Has an EMS unit or Roanoke City PD also been called?

Providing timely and accurate information can be essential to initiating a rapid and effective VWCCPD response.

# VWCC PD Online

The VWCC PD maintains pages hosted on the campus' web server. The site contains information on safety, parking regulations, department contact numbers and methods, VWCC-specific notices and other resources useful both on and off campus. The site includes a form that will allow the user to rate our department and our officers. We appreciate any and all input and will use the information to make our department even better in the future. We are committed to continuously updating and upgrading our site in order to serve its users in a meaningful, comprehensive fashion.

The site also makes available an anonymous report form that can be used to inform our department of criminal activity without having to speak directly with an officer.

The URL for the form is: <http://www.vw.vccs.edu/police/Pages/anonrprt.html#Top>

Submitting an anonymous report does not identify the sender to our department unless s/he chooses to include a means of contacting him/her. Including contact information can be valuable if someone were willing to be a witness in court or has evidence that needs to be transferred in person. Including contact information is in no way required in order to complete and send a report.

The submittal is stored in a secure section of the VWCC PD web site (only accessible by authorized personnel) and the results are checked daily. After retrieving any stored data, the submittal is removed from the server to further protect security and confidentiality.

The Webmaster of VWCC PD's pages is Officer David Blankenship and comments/suggestions concerning the site can be emailed to: [dblankenship@vw.vccs.edu](mailto:dblankenship@vw.vccs.edu)

**Preparing the Annual Disclosure of Campus Crime Statistics:**

VWCCPD will compile and make available all statistics on crime that occurred on the VWCC campus during the previous year.

We will also make every effort to obtain information concerning crime that occurred in the areas surrounding VWCC property from the Roanoke City PD and other agencies in jurisdictions where VWCC has offices or classes.

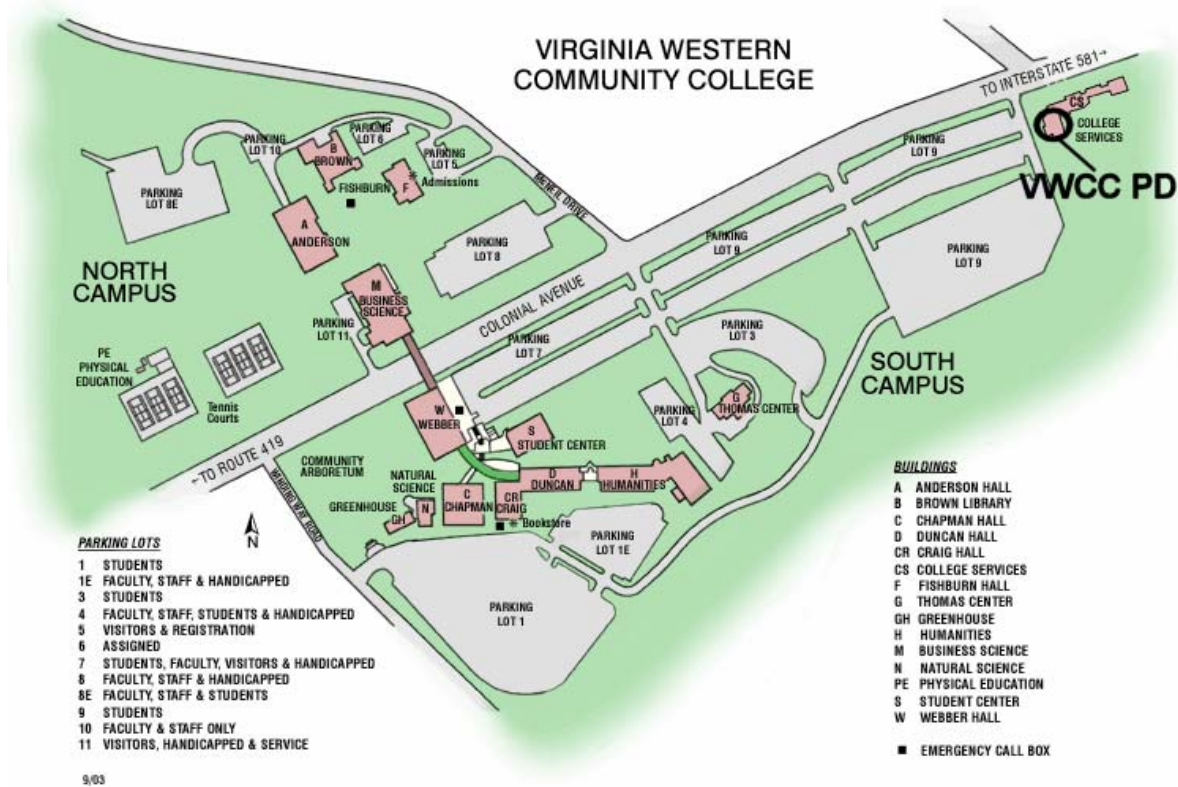
We will make the statistics and other pertinent information available to all current and prospective students and employees, both online and in printed form upon request.

We will also submit the statistics to the DOE web site for publication in the DOE statistical archive.

We in the VWCC PD are in full agreement with the basic tenet of the Clery Act, which could be summed up as: information on and about crime on (and around) our campus should be available to all of our current as well as prospective students and faculty.

Our dispatch log and case log are both available for review in our department’s office. Anyone may come to our office and request to see the logs, for any reason.

Our office is located in the College Services Building room 101:



**Statistics:**

On the Main Campus  
(Colonial Ave, Roanoke)

The statistics include incidents reported to the VWCC PD as having occurred on-campus. The statistics reflect incidents reported from January 2003 through December 2003.

VWCC PD also received the following reports:

Property Damage: (10)

Theft from vehicle (1)

Intimidation (4)

Simple Assault (4)

Suspicious Person: (5)

Trespassing: (1)

First Responder/EMS: (49)

Disorderly Conduct: (9)

**Motor Vehicle Incidents:**

Misc. Violations (3)

Accidents (18)

Criminal Activity	2003
Homicide/Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter	0
Homicide/Negligent Manslaughter	0
Sex Offenses/Forcible	0
Sex Offenses/Non-Forcible	0
Robbery	0
Aggravated Assault	0
Burglary	0
Theft From Buildings	15
Larceny	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Vandalism	5
Arson	0
Liquor Law Violations	0
Drug Law Violations	0
Illegal Weapons Possession	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>27</b>

Hate Crime	2003
Race	0
Gender	0
Religion	0
Sexual Orientation	0
Ethnicity	0
Disability	0
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>

## Statistics: Off-Campus

(includes public property)-

Jurisdiction	Botetourt Co.	Roanoke City	Salem
Criminal Activity			
Homicides	0	0	NR
Sex Offenses	0	1	NR
Robbery	0	0	NR
Aggravated Assault	0	0	NR
Burglary	0	4	NR
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	NR
Arson	0	0	NR
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	NR
Drug Law Violations	0	0	NR
Weapons Violations	0	0	NR
Larceny	0	14	NR
Vandalism	0	0	NR
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>

VWCC PD attempts to gather information from all jurisdictions in which the college holds classes or has offices. Jurisdictions showing a numeric total of incidents have reported those totals to our office; an entry of "NR" denotes a jurisdiction that did not reply at all to our inquiries.

Incidents reported do not necessarily indicate VWCC student involvement; they are incidents that occurred in proximity to VWCC owned or leased property.

## Statistics:

### Hate Crime (by jurisdiction)-

Jurisdiction	Botetourt Co.	Roanoke City	Salem
Hate Crime	0	0	NR
Race	0	0	NR
Gender	0	0	NR
Religion	0	0	NR
Sexual Orientation	0	0	NR
Ethnicity	0	0	NR
Disability	0	0	NR
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

VWCC PD attempts to gather information from all jurisdictions in which the college holds classes or has offices. Jurisdictions showing a numeric total of incidents have reported those totals to our office; an entry of “NR” denotes a jurisdiction that did not reply at all to our inquiries. Incidents reported do not necessarily indicate VWCC student involvement; they are incidents that occurred in proximity to VWCC owned or leased property.

The hate crime statistics by jurisdiction include all incidents reported in or around areas associated with VWCC (but not on the main campus, since those statistics are collected and published separately), whether they occurred on public property or at off-campus facilities.

**In Virginia, it is a felony to assault another person based on the victim's race, ethnicity or religion.**

**If convicted, the offender receives a mandatory 30-day prison sentence.**

## **Community Resources**

### **City of Roanoke:**

Sexual Assault Response & Awareness (SARA)

(540) 345-7273

24-Hour Hotline: (540) 981-9352

Child and Adult Abuse Hotline

(540) 853-2245

TAP Women's Resource Center (Domestic Violence)

24-Hour Hotline: 1-800-915-8164

Alcoholics Anonymous

(540) 343-6857

Narcotics Anonymous

1-800-777-1515

### **State of Virginia:**

To obtain brochures, etc:

**Victims Services Section**

**Department of Criminal Justice Services**

**805 East Broad Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Richmond, VA 23219**

**(804) 786-4000**

Division of Crime Victims' Compensation:

Richmond = 367-8686

Toll-free statewide = 1-800-552-4007

Out-of-state = (804) 367-8686

**Division of Crime Victims' Compensation**

**Post Office Box 5423**

**Richmond, VA 23220**

Virginians Aligned Against Sexual Assault: (804) 979-9002

Virginians Against Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-838-8038

Virginia Commission on Family Violence Prevention:

Family Violence and Sexual Abuse hotline = 1-800-838-8238

Child Abuse hotline = 1-800-552-7096

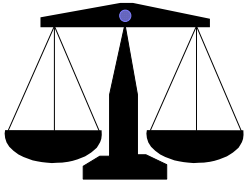
Elder and Disabled Adult Abuse hotline = 1-800-832-3858

### **National:**

National Organization for Victim Assistance: (202) 232-6682

National Victim Center: 1-800-394-2255

National Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222



## **Crime and Safety Awareness Programs at VWCC**

Classes sponsored and/or hosted by Virginia Western include:

- Defensive Driving
- CPR
- Self-Defense for Women
- Intervention/Advocacy with Children
- Emergency Medical Technology
- Lifeguard Training
- Safety Program Organization & Administration
- College Survival Skills (classrooms are visited by an officer as a guest speaker)

Contact the VWCC Admissions office (540) 857-7231 for course information.



## **Safety Publications**

VWCC PD includes information, tips and bulletins concerning crime and safety issues on the Police Department's web site. At events such as Spring Fling, Student Fun Day, and other gatherings of students and faculty our department usually operates a table or display area with crime and safety related material available to any persons wanting it.

When warranted, special notices are dispatched by way of campus mail or Email and via bulletin boards throughout the campus.

Crime and safety brochures published by The Department of Criminal Justice Services are available in the campus police office as well as in various locations/offices around the VWCC campus (notably the Student Activities Center and the Counseling office).