

Alexandria Sheriff's Office Bulletin



NEWS

JUNE 2020

Deputies Graduate from the Academy

Congratulations to Deputy Shawn Harden, Deputy Djibril Sorgho and Deputy Mary Jo Cummings on their recent graduation from the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy! This spring, the academy modified its instruction due to COVID-19, but all recruits still received intensive and thorough training over six months, including firearms and emergency vehicle operations training. The full graduation ceremony was not an option so smaller sections of the class are graduating on different dates. ASO looks forward to sharing more graduation photos next month!



Celebrating Our Titans – and Other School Fun!

With the school experience changing so much, the Sheriff's Office did our best to stay engaged with students. [Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and other T.C. Williams alumni recorded a special congratulations message for T.C.'s Class of 2020](#) in advance of their virtual graduation ceremony. Several deputies also made remote classroom visits and attended virtual career days at MacArthur and Polk, and [Sheriff Lawhorne even made an appearance at the Cora Kelly talent show!](#) To support summer learning, ASO is continuing our weekly [Storytime for Students with new videos](#) each Wednesday throughout the summer.



Efforts for Inmates During COVID-19 Pandemic

In the first week of March, the Sheriff's Office began restricting volunteer and visitor access to the jail to help keep inmates and staff safe. Since then, [ASO staff has been working hard to provide inmates with valuable services and programs](#) while trying to protect them from the coronavirus. Staff has implemented video visitation, remote classroom instruction, complimentary canteen bags for newcomers, and other quality services to keep inmates healthy and engaged.



Inmate Library Receives Generous Donations

Many thanks to the thoughtful community members who have recently donated more than a thousand paperback books to the William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center's [inmate library](#). Jane Collins coordinated a massive collection on behalf of [Heard](#), and Alexandra Fleming and Sophie Hatcher also donated hundreds more. Inmates enjoy reading all types of books, including suspense novels, histories and personal growth titles. The Sheriff's Office appreciates donations of paperback books in excellent condition, but we cannot accept hardback books or magazines.



First Responders Promote Summer Recreation Activities for Youth

The Sheriff's Office partnered with the Recreation, Police and Fire departments at "Grab and Go" events to hand out to-go bags of "cookout" hot dogs and hamburgers along with information about fun summer activities for kids. On June 4, they visited the Ruby Tucker Center, Andrew Adkins Community, and Chick Armstrong, Charles Houston and William Ramsay recreation centers and distributed about 300 bags and info packets to families. Visit [Recreation's website](#) to find summer activities for your family.

