

Alexandria Sheriff's Office Bulletin



NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2021

ASO Helps Students as Schools Reopen

When schools reopened, the Sheriff's Office was ready to welcome students back! ASO deputies and civilian staff participated in back-to-school events like the backpack and school supply giveaways organized by Firefighters & Friends to the Rescue and the Jaguar Luau at Jefferson-Houston. Then on the first day of school, deputies assisted with pedestrian safety and traffic control at schools to make sure kids were safe as everyone adjusted to the new routine.



Sheriff's Office Fall Outreach Continues

This summer deputies enjoyed meeting with folks at a variety of community events including neighborhood cookouts and First Thursdays on Mount Vernon Avenue. Deputies are already busy with fall outreach efforts, recently joining seniors for the Robust Walkathon at Ben Brenman Park and visiting with neighbors at farmers' markets across the City. Some residents have even contacted Sheriff Lawhorne to let him know that they like meeting our deputies and are impressed by their professionalism!



Deputies Provide Law Enforcement Support in Community and at Capitol

As Alexandria's secondary law enforcement agency, the Sheriff's Office can give support to the Police Department in emergencies, assist other City departments with traffic control and security, and provide personnel to our federal partners in critical situations. Most recently, our Civil Disturbance Unit assisted U.S. Capitol Police with security for a protest at the Capitol and deputies also helped Transportation and Environmental Services by directing traffic at the sandbag distribution site in advance of Hurricane Ida.



Deputy Assists in Efforts for Afghan Refugees

As hundreds of Afghan refugees began to arrive in Northern Virginia, Deputy Sahar Sherzai volunteered to use her language skills and cultural understanding to help out. A fluent speaker of Farsi, Deputy Sherzai (second from left) worked with other City staff and volunteers to support the Emergency Repatriation Center in the Dulles area. She also coordinated a supply drive, collecting donations for newcomers that will be distributed by Lutheran Social Services.



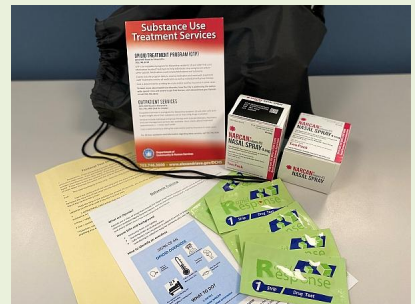
Writing Contest Offers Inmates Creative Outlet, Opportunity to be Heard

This summer inmates at the Adult Detention Center were invited to participate in a [writing contest coordinated by Heard](#), a local nonprofit that offers people in need and at-risk individuals the opportunity to be heard through creative expression. Then on August 25, [Heard](#) and the Sheriff's Office held a virtual awards ceremony to announce the winners. Inmates submitted a total of 24 entries in the fiction, nonfiction and poetry categories and prizes were awarded for first, second and third places in each category.



ASO Distributing Narcan, Treatment Resources to Returning Citizens

In partnership with the Department of Community and Human Services, the [Sheriff's Office is now providing Narcan and fentanyl test strips](#), along with substance abuse treatment and peer support information, to individuals being released from jail. Alexandria is the first in the state to offer this resource to returning citizens and Arlington recently began a similar program. ASO is a member of the Opioid Work Group which launched a regional harm reduction program in May to lower rates of opioid overdoses from fentanyl.



Sheriff Lawhorne, ASO Members Participate in September 11 Remembrances

Twenty years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks, [Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and members of the Sheriff's Office, including several who had responded to the Pentagon, reflected on the impact of that day.](#) Sheriff Lawhorne took part in the [City's remembrance ceremony](#) with Fire Chief Corey Smedley and Acting Police Chief Don Hayes, and then first responders attended a special tribute by Alexandria Titans Youth Football on their opening day.



Coming Up! Drug Take Back Day is October 23

Help prevent prescription drug abuse by safely disposing of unwanted and expired medications at the next [Drug Take Back Day on October 23!](#) Alexandria will have four convenient drop-off locations -- Police Headquarters, First Baptist Church, Fire Station 210 and The Neighborhood Pharmacy -- so start cleaning out your medicine cabinets now. If you can't make it on Take Back Day, remember there are [other options, including permanent drop boxes](#).

