

# Drive Safe Hampton Roads

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## Dispatch – November 2020

### Welcome to our newest Drive Safe HR Member!

Liz Bullock, Suffolk Police Department

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### UPCOMING DATES...



- October 28 – CMV Event - contact committee chair for location information
- November 1 – Daylight Saving Time Ends
- November 12-13 – DRIVE SMART Virginia's Distracted Driving Summit, Virginia Beach
- November 16-29 – Click It or Ticket Campaign
- November 18 – CMV Event - contact committee chair for location information
- November 20 – Hanna Award Submissions **DUE**

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### DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020-2021

- Pierre Granger, State Farm, Chairman of the Board
- John Fentress, Community Advocate
- Ruby Gatling, Community Advocate
- Lt. Scott Wichtendahl, Virginia Beach Police Department
- Myrna Banks, Norfolk Public Schools Transportation
- MPO Jim McElligott, Virginia Beach Police Department
- Georjeane Blumling, Ph.D., Community Advocate
- Rich Jacobs, DRIVE SMART Virginia
- Michael Ihrig, MI Technical Solutions, Inc.



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### MASKS: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND MOTOR CARRIER COMMUNITY



**REMINDER:** FMCSA recently sent Drive Safe HR several boxes of face masks to be distributed to the Commercial Motor Vehicle Law Enforcement Community and our motor carrier members. Please contact [DSHR@DriveSafeHR.org](mailto:DSHR@DriveSafeHR.org) if you are interested in receiving masks. Thank you to Craig Feister and Suzanne Smith for their help in getting these to us for distribution.

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### FEEL FREE TO TWEET!



We need **YOUR** help in keeping the Drive Safe HR name in the community. If you have a Facebook or Twitter account, be sure to mention Drive Safe HR when you post your pictures from the various events by using the tag '@DriveSafeHR'.

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### FACT:

During the Thanksgiving holiday weekend in 2018, there were 291 fatalities in traffic crashes across the nation.

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## HAVE SOME SPARE TIME ON YOUR HANDS THESE DAYS?

Time to step up and be counted! Drive Safe HR has several positions that need volunteers from the membership. If you are interested in any of the following 3 “jobs”, please let us know. DSHR needs **YOUR** involvement to keep this organization running and moving forward.



**Treasurer Assistant (ProTem) --- Occupant Protection Committee Chair ---- DSHR Vice-President**

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## The 2020 JOHN T. HANNA AWARDS: Recognizing Traffic Safety Excellence in Hampton Roads

In 1991, Concerned Citizens Advocating Traffic Safety (the previous name of Drive Safe HR) instituted the JOHN T. HANNA AWARDS. Named after Virginia’s “Father of Transportation Safety”, these awards honor those who share Mr. Hanna’s tireless dedication and commitment to improving traffic safety on Virginia’s highways. [www.drivesafehr.org/hanna](http://www.drivesafehr.org/hanna)

**\*\*Please note that the Hanna Award submission process is entirely online.**

**Submissions are now being accepted until November 20, 2020.**

### AWARD CATEGORIES

**Lifetime Safety Achievement Award:** Presented for lifetime achievement in the area of transportation safety.

**Employer Safety:** Presented for employers who have taken the extra initiative to promote traffic safety and encourage their employees to practice safe driving behaviors.

**Martin H. Schlosser Award for Traffic Safety Activism:** Presented for outstanding efforts in educating citizens and changing attitudes and behavior regarding transportation safety.

**Roadway Innovations:** Presented for Individuals and/or organizations that show exemplary achievement in the design and/or implementation of highway engineering techniques, technology, and innovative approaches.

**Impaired Driving Prevention:** Presented for encouraging the prevention of drunk, drugged, drowsy, and/or drugged driving.

**Law Enforcement Initiatives:** Presented to a law enforcement department or individual who has shown extra initiative above and beyond the normal duties to promote and encourage traffic safety within their community.

**Legal:** Presented to attorneys, judges, or legislators who have actively supported safety issues thus strengthening existing laws and creating new laws that impact communities to help improve or reduce highway safety-related behaviors.

**Messaging/Media:** Presented to individuals or organizations, including but not limited to media representatives or news outlets, that have created messaging, used an innovative outreach method, or have helped spread the word about traffic safety through reporting or programming.

**Occupant Protection:** Presented for promoting and encouraging the use of safety belts and/or child safety seats through creative and innovative programs and activities.

**Transportation Safety:** Presented for developing approaches in the public and/or private sector, encouraging, educating, and/or promoting traffic safety to improve safety for drivers and riders.

**Youth Traffic Safety:** Presented to persons or programs educating youth and spreading the message on the importance of youth traffic safety.

**Fire/Emergency Medical Services:** Presented for actions at crash scenes or for activities or efforts that have a broader impact on improving at-scene safety and/or survivability and injury reduction for victims.

### Eligibility, Rules, and Notification:

Any individual, business, organization, or governmental agency in the Hampton Roads and Eastern Shore area, which promotes community traffic safety, i.e. sober driving, use of safety belts, bicycle or pedestrian safety, motorcycle safety, incident management, etc., is eligible for nomination. Show us how you incorporated COVID policies into your programming! 2019 JOHN T. HANNA AWARD winners are not eligible for 2020 nomination. Eligible activities, programs or materials are those that were initiated, completed, published, or produced **in the period from 10/1/19-9/30/20.**

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## DSHR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY



The impact of COVID-19, along with recent events nationally, has had an immediate effect on the ability to conduct highway safety programs as in previous years. However, there are still groups and individuals who are working hard towards saving lives and reducing traffic safety injuries and fatalities in Hampton Roads. Drive Safe HR plans to recognize these individuals through a modified presentation of the upcoming Hanna Awards.

If you or your company would be interested in sponsoring the purchase of this year's Hanna Award plaques, please contact us at [dshr@drivesafehr.org](mailto:dshr@drivesafehr.org).

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## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS



Drowsy driving crashes can happen any time, but most consistently occur late at night, in the early pre-dawn hours, or in the mid-afternoon. Every year, the time change disrupts sleep patterns and may result in sleep-deprived drivers struggling with concentration behind the wheel. That phenomenon typically expresses itself with the day feeling longer because people's internal clocks will, at the outset, still have them waking up an

hour early. You could also feel tired earlier in the evening - overlapping with commute hours - until your body adjusts.

Slow down and be more watchful of children getting off buses as schools are headed back to the classroom. Look for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks. Remember, children do not easily estimate vehicle speeds and often misjudge when it is safe to cross the street when a vehicle is approaching. Combined with external factors along with time change, be sure to remain vigilant, even after your body adjusts.

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## THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY WEEKEND / NOVEMBER 25-29, 2020



Each year, the Thanksgiving holiday results in millions of travelers on the road, enroute to and from their holiday destination. With your help, NHTSA wants to ensure that drivers and their passengers are safe during this special time of year. Click [here](#) for your campaign materials.

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## SHOPPING EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS?



Continue to utilize **Amazon Smile**!!! When you purchase from Amazon, 05% of the purchase will be donated to Drive Safe Hampton Roads. The quick, easy way <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-1856349>

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## JUST A HEADS UP...



In September, the DSHR membership received an email from the DSHR Board. Starting in November, the Board Directors will be contacting members, updating contact information and discussing efforts to create a more compact and focused organization.

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Parents, gift a safe driving app to your teen driver just in time for the new Virginia law banning handheld cellphones while driving. CellGuardians, a new **Android** safe driving app, breaks the habit of distracted driving caused by cellphones. Once installed, the gold shield comes up and blocks distracting apps. Easy, simple, and effective. The subscription costs \$0.99/month or \$9.99/year. The first 30 days are free. Great tech solution for teen drivers! Happy Holidays!  
*(Information shared by Cell Guardian, MI Technical Solutions)*

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**FACT:**



Nine years of annual survey results by the National Association of State Directors of Pupil Transportation Services show drivers routinely ignore school bus stop arm signs. In a single day during the 2019-20 school year, more than 131,000 school bus drivers in 39 states, plus the District of Columbia counted more than 95,494 vehicles illegally passing their stopped school buses. Stretched out over a full school year, this one-day count amounts to more than 17 million illegal maneuvers nationwide.

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**NEW VIRGINIA LAW:**



Heads up Virginia drivers! Put your phones down while driving anywhere in the state of Virginia. **Starting on January 1, 2021**, law enforcement will issue tickets for this primary offense of observing driving holding their cellphone while driving. The first offense costs \$125. The second offense will cost \$250 or if the driver is observed violating the handheld phone ban while driving law in a work zone.

Be smart and put your phone down while driving. Distracted driving is dangerous and costly. Often underreported, distracted driving by cell phones has caused thousands of deaths across the country every year and costs billions of dollars to the economy. Do your part to save lives and put your phone down. *(Information reminder shared by Keri Douglas, Cell Guardian, MI Technical Solutions)*

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**FACT:**



Typically, 99 percent of drivers who receive and pay a ticket for illegally passing a school bus have not received a second violation. 21% of violations occur between 3pm-4pm, making it the worst time for school bus stop arm running. The most school bus stop arm violations occurred on Thursdays and during the month of October. *(According to Verra Mobility data)*

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**DMV UPDATE:**

The Virginia DMV, Highway Safety Office partners with law enforcement, state and non-profit agencies/organizations to address, message, and take action on observed traffic infractions. **Preliminary data** reveals an increase in fatalities, especially in the Speed and Unrestrained categories. *(The 2020 data contained in this report is preliminary and subject to change.)*

Portsmouth Region Fatalities Report			
	Fatalities Jan. 1 through Sep. 30, 2020	Fatalities Jan. 1 through Sep. 30, 2019	% Change
Driver/Occupants	110	100	10% ▲
Pedestrians	16	14	14% ▲

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***DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to inform and educate the public on traffic safety issues.***

**Stay Well, Drive Safe, and Buckle Up!!  
Every Trip, Every Time**

