

# Drive Safe Hampton Roads

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## Dispatch – March 2022

### UPCOMING DATES...



- March 2 – GIT Meeting re: Video Judging, via Zoom, 11:00 am.
- March 8 – Round-Up Dumpster Collection by Waste Management of VA
- March 15 – CMV Regional Check, 7:30 am
- March 20 – first Day of Spring!

**\*\* CANCELED \*\*** March 10 – GIT Awards Breakfast (alternate awards presentation planned)

April 12 – CMV Regional Check, 7:30 am

May 3-5 – Virginia Highway Safety Summit

May 10 – CMV Regional Check, 7:30 am

August 18-19 – DRIVE SMART Virginia Distracted Driving Summit, Hilton's The Main in Norfolk

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



- Sgt. Richard Cheatham, Virginia Beach Police Department
- Corey Thompson, VDOT
- John Brown, VDOT / AECOM

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### ALL MEMBERS: DON'T FORGET TO REPORT YOUR IN-KIND HOURS



DMV grants require 25% match documentation of in-kind service hours from the DSHR membership. Please be sure to collect and send in this information so it can be documented monthly.

**Collect the following information NLT the 7th** for the previous month's volunteer hours and email to [DSHR@drivesafehr.org](mailto:DSHR@drivesafehr.org): Your name, month tracking for, task, event or type of activity, number of hours towards the Occupant Protection Grant, and number of hours towards the Impaired Driving Prevention Grant.

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### SHOPPING THOSE SPRING SALES??



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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### CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSTALLATION



Parents, grandparents, and anyone else who drives with young children in the car should be able to handle child safety seats properly. That's why AAA offers free child safety seat checks, during which trained technicians will make sure your child's car seat is installed safely and correctly.

AAA offers appointments for child safety seat checks from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Make an appointment at 757-233-3889.

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## VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED



Time to step up and be counted!  
Drive Safe HR needs YOUR help for several “jobs”.  
If you are interested, please let us know by **March 6**.

DSHR needs **YOUR** involvement to keep this organization running and moving forward.

**\* DSHR VICE-PRESIDENT**

**\* DSHR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **\*VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHESAPEAKE JUBILEE:**

The Jubilee will take place May 20, 21, 22. DSHR has several shifts that span each of these days. DSHR has been invited to provide the Designated Driver Booth again, but this has not been confirmed as yet, depending on whether or not enough volunteers are interested in covering shifts.

**Let us know by March 6 if you are interested in volunteering for the Jubilee this year!  
We have two volunteers so far but more are needed to cover this 2 ½ day event.**

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## DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Myrna Banks**, Norfolk Public Schools (2021-22 Chair of the Board) – up for renewal June 2022

**Scott Wichtendahl**, Virginia Beach Police Department – up for renewal June 2022

**John Fentress**, Community Advocate – up for renewal June 2022

**Ruby Gatling**, Community Advocate – up for renewal June 2022

**Michael Ihrig**, MI Technical Solutions, Inc. – up for renewal June 2022

**Rich Jacobs**, DRIVE SMART Virginia – up for renewal June 2022

**Pierre Granger**, State Farm – term expiring June 2022, **stepping down**

**Jim McElligott**, Community Advocate - June 2023

**Georjeane Blumling**, Community Advocate –June 2023



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## 2022-2023 DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS OFFICERS

President: Keri Douglas, MI Technical Solutions, Inc.

Vice-President: **YOUR NAME HERE?**

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### FACT:

Drunk driving accounts for nearly one-third of vehicle-related fatalities in the United States.

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## ST. PATRICK'S DAY | BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING



Each year, St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated with city parades, funny leprechaun hats, and plenty of green beer. Unfortunately, it often ends with risky drunk drivers taking to the streets when the parties end. If you plan to go out and enjoy the evening with alcohol, make sure you refrain from driving.

<https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/drunk-driving/buzzed-driving-drunk-driving/saint-patricks-day>

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**FACT:**

Parents and caregivers must remind children and older adults to be safe as pedestrians. Whether it be in a parking lot, crosswalk, or on a road, **everyone is a pedestrian.**

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**DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS PRESENTED  
THE 31ST ANNUAL JOHN T. HANNA AWARDS  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN TRAFFIC SAFETY**

**March 1, 2022 (Hampton Roads, VA)** – The annual John T. Hanna Awards, presented by Drive Safe Hampton Roads, recognized five local individuals and groups for outstanding performance in the area of traffic safety. This year’s recipients included Sandbridge Traffic Safety Group, Michael Goodove, Christy King, Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health (Riverside CEALH) Jane D. McKinney Driver Rehabilitation Program, and John Vaughter.

**\*\*** To view the presentation, please refer to this website link:  
<https://www.drivesafehr.org/get-involved/john-t-hanna-awards/>

The 2021 John T. Hanna Award Recipients are as follows:

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

**The winner of this award is the Sandbridge Traffic Safety Group.**

In early 2021, after advancing concerns about traffic safety issues in their neighborhood, a group of Sandbridge homeowners convened to provide the City with a comprehensive look at factors affecting traffic safety. This study points out the uniqueness of Sandbridge, where a small number of summer beach cottages have been replaced by a growing number of full-time residents and numerous large beach rental properties. It also points out characteristics that negatively impact traffic safety. The study reviews current conditions, adding recommendations in many areas, i.e. crosswalk pavement parking and signage, traffic calming, speed limits/signage, passing, blind corners, beach access paths, and parking. Because many of the City’s actions are planned for 2022, the final results of the effort will not be known until later in 2022. All activities associated with this project were done by resident volunteers who researched data, walked the community to photograph and document traffic safety issues, and contributed to the written report, The Sandbridge Traffic Safety Group.

**Impaired Driving Prevention** award is presented to individuals and/or organizations who encourage the prevention of drunk, drowsy, drugged and/or distracted driving.

**The winner of this award is Michael Goodove.**

Mike Goodove has been a volunteer for the MADD Southside Chapter in the Tidewater region since 1993. In his time as a MADD volunteer, he has served as the President and media spokesperson for the MADD Southside Chapter, serving as a champion for safer roads and lending a voice to the victims and families of victims of impaired driving crashes in the region. Throughout his tenure with MADD Southside, Mr. Goodove has provided financial support for the MADD Southside Candlelight Vigil so that victims in the area would have a venue to remember and honor their loved ones each year. He has organized and conducted monthly meetings for MADD, organized and conducted monthly support group meetings for victims, organized “Tie One On For Safety” Campaigns, and worked pro-bono with victims and prosecutors. Mike says he volunteers because he believes in supporting victims and deterring impaired driving.

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

**The winner of this award is Christy King.**

Christy King is the mother of Christopher King who tragically lost his life in a traffic accident because he was not wearing his seat belt. Christopher King and three other friends were leaving a party in the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport area. The driver was driving at a dangerously high speed and crashed. Christopher King died in that car accident on July 4, 2020, the only fatality because he was not wearing his seatbelt. Christopher was 18 years old. To commemorate the one-year anniversary of her son's death, Christy King teamed up with family and friends to hold several events in honor of Christopher's memory. Christy focused on promoting the Buckle Up message and safe driving at her "Cruise-In and Curls for Chris" events over the July 2021 July 4th holiday weekend. Christy plans on hosting these Buckle Up and safe driving events every year so that "not another mother, not another family, will have to go through what we have gone through."

**Transportation Safety** awards are presented to individuals or organizations who develop educational approaches to the public and/or private sector to promote traffic safety for drivers and riders.

**This award goes to Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health (Riverside CEALH) Jane D. McKinney Driver Rehabilitation Program.**

The Jane D. McKinney Driver Rehabilitation Program, led by a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist, is one of a few in the Hampton Roads region with a focus on evaluating the skills and abilities of drivers, particularly older drivers. The program includes Senior Driver Safety Assessments, Adaptive Driver Assessment and Training, and Driver Training for Teenagers with Disabilities. In addition to driver safety assessments, this Riverside program provides training in modified vehicle equipment and adapted driving strategies for those with physical or cognitive disabilities. The Jane D. McKinney Driver Rehabilitation Program is a DMV-licensed Commercial Driving School. A sliding scale to cover the cost of a driving assessment is offered to individuals who qualify.

**Presentation of the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award to John Vaughter.**

John Vaughter has been actively educating the veteran and medical community on driving safety for over 40 years. John Vaughter's career began in driver rehabilitation as a Program Manager of the Driving Rehabilitation Program with the Department of Veterans Affairs and later as Adjunct Faculty for the Department's Driver Rehabilitation Instructors Training Course. John is recognized for establishing the Driver Rehabilitation Program, which is a collaboration between the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Medical Center and the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department at the Medical College of Virginia to evaluate and train private clients. He provided in-service training for physicians, nursing staff, and allied health professionals on the importance of re-training veterans whose driving status had been compromised due to injury or illness. Later, he was the Program Manager for the Metropolitan Driving School in Richmond, VA. John is a Certified Driving Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS) and a licensed Commercial Driving Training School Instructor for over twenty years. Currently, John Vaughter is the Driver Rehabilitation Coordinator for The Riverside Center for Excellence in Aging and Lifelong Health (CEALTH). He evaluates driving potential impacted by cognitive, congenital, or functional deficits, employing adaptive aids if applicable to further enhance independence and quality of life. In addition, John works with younger adults with disabilities to obtain their license through the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services. John Vaughter has dedicated his life to ensure drivers have the best education and training in driver safety.



For more information, visit [www.DriveSafeHR.org](http://www.DriveSafeHR.org) and more on the awards, visit <https://www.drivesafehr.org/get-involved/john-t-hanna-awards/>.

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**FACT:** In the United States, about 28 people die in crashes related to drunk driving each day, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE DMV HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE:**

Highway safety partners,

Speeding is a major factor in traffic deaths and injuries. Excessive speeding reduces the amount of time the driver has to react in a dangerous situation to avoid a crash, increases vehicle stopping distance, and reduces the ability of road safety structures to protect vehicle occupants in a crash.



Virginia’s preliminary crash data for 2021 shows there was an overall increase in highway fatalities of 14% (847) in 2020 to 967 in 2021.

Speed related fatalities were no exception. In 2020 there were 406 speed related fatalities and 445 in 2021.

The Department of Motor Vehicles Highway Safety Office has reviewed Traffic Records Electronic Data System (TREDS) crash data and preliminary 2022 data is showing an increase in speed related fatalities. As of February 22, the 2022 data reflects 49 speed-related fatalities compared to 39 speed-related fatalities during the same period in 2021.

With warmer weather approaching and more drivers on the road we must stay diligent in our efforts by continuing to educate our communities on the negative consequences of speeding on Virginia highways.

As our partner in highway safety, we need your help in decreasing speed related crashes, fatalities and injuries. With education and enforcement, we can all work to change what the numbers are showing.

Please use the resources below to continue to educate your communities as we work towards zero deaths on Virginia highways.

[Towards Zero Deaths-Aggressive Driving](#)

[National Highway Traffic Safety Administration \(NHTSA\) Risky driving-speed](#)

[Traffic Safety Marking-Obey The Sign Or Pay The Fine](#)

[Traffic Safety Marketing- Stop Speeding Before It Stops You](#)

[Youth of Virginia Speak Out Drive for Change: Buckle Up & Slow Down Campaign](#)

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**FACT:** It is important to notify and report unsafe conditions on sidewalks, paths, lighting, and roadways. **Contact VDOT or the city to report:** 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) or <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/>

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**African-American Seat Belt Safety Toolkit**

Motor vehicle crashes remain the primary cause of death for African-Americans 24 years old and younger. <https://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/get-materials/toolkits/buckle/african-american-seat-belt-safety-toolkit>

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## TIPS TO SHARE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

To stay safe on the roads, pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists need to respect each other. Drivers should look out for pedestrians by avoiding distractions and drive in relation to conditions as well as adhering to speed limits.



Pedestrians should:

- Plan a route with safe crossings
- Avoid distractions, alcohol and drugs, and be alert
- Dress to be seen, wear reflective clothing, but never assume drivers see you
- Carry a blinking light or flashlight at night
- Walk on sidewalks and if there's no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible
- Watch for cars backing up, especially in parking lots and driveways

When walking, pedestrians should be predictable, follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals. They should cross at crosswalks or intersections – where drivers expect pedestrians.

While crossing, pedestrians must look for cars in all directions, including those turning left or right, and make eye contact with turning drivers before proceeding when possible.

If there is no crosswalk or intersection, pedestrians should:

- Go to a well-lit area with the best view of traffic
- Wait until there is enough time to cross safely
- Continue to watch for traffic while crossing.

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**FACT:** Many Drinkers Fuzzy About When They've Reached Their Limit. Up to half of individuals whose breath alcohol concentration is over the legal limit to operate a vehicle may overestimate their ability to drive.

<https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/22085-many-drinkers-fuzzy-about-when-theyve-reached-drunk-driving-limit-study>

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## NATIONAL U.S. ROADWAY SAFETY STRATEGY RELEASED

The United States Department of Transportation National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS) outlines the Department's comprehensive approach to significantly reducing serious injuries and deaths on our Nation's highways, roads, and streets. This is the first step in working toward an ambitious long-term goal of reaching zero roadway fatalities. Safety is U.S. DOT's top priority, and the NRSS represents a Department-wide approach to working with stakeholders across the country to achieve this goal. Read further at <https://www.transportation.gov/NRSS>.

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## HAVE YOU NOTICED?? Where have all the truck drivers gone?

Pandemic supply chain disruptions are exacerbating a years-long trucker shortage.

The United States is experiencing a shortage of more than 80,000 truck drivers, according to an estimate from the American Trucking Associations. The ATA also estimates that about 72 percent of America's freight transport moves by trucks, which shows just how dependent consumers are on the drivers who deliver turkeys to stores or gas to pumps or the Christmas presents you order to your doorsteps. This article can be found at <https://www.vox.com/22841783/truck-drivers-shortage-supply-chain-pandemic>

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*DRIVE SAFE HAMPTON ROADS is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to improve highway safety, and reduce injuries and deaths from vehicle crashes.*



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

