

VIRGINIA Sheriffs ASSOCIATION



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**SHERIFF BETH ARTHUR
ARLINGTON COUNTY
2012-2013 VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Newport News Goes Green With Presidential Environmental Advisor

KATHLEEN CAREY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Like so many localities across the country, the City of Newport News is looking to save money. They found an innovative approach that placed the city on the cutting edge and into the national spotlight. In 2011, the Department of Vehicle Services began converting a number of vehicles to burn propane autogas. The Sheriff's Office was the first agency selected for the pilot program and started with two marked cruisers. Deputies assigned to the civil enforcement division hit the road daily, making them perfect candidates for the program test. They were instructed on how to gather information that would later be used as research to rollout the program citywide. There are now 26 vehicles throughout the city running on propane. The green initiative earned a visit from a White House advisor only one year after the pilot program began.

On August 8, 2012, Nancy Sutley, President Barack Obama's principal environmental advisor and chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, visited Newport News for a propane vehicle display

and fueling demonstration that illustrated the city's dedication to clean energy and to energy efficiency. Using propane autogas is beneficial for our community—it reduces harmful emissions, it is domestically produced and it will save the City of Newport News on fuel costs. At today's price of gasoline, the City of Newport News is saving about \$1.28/per gallon. That calculates to an annual savings of \$22,000. That is essentially the purchase price of a new car. Running on an alternative fuel is aiding the replacement costs of city cars.

The conversion cost of \$5,800 per vehicle was funded entirely by a Southeast Propane AutoGas Development Program grant administered by James Madison University and Virginia Clean Cities. Sutley was quoted in the Daily Press (08/09/12) talking about the worthwhile investment, "What we've seen today between the propane vehicles the Sheriff is using and some of the environmental features here is a little more on the front end saves you a lot of money on the back end, saves you money on operating costs and has a lot of other benefits—benefits to the city and the residents and also the people working for the city."



Standing in front of a Sheriff's unit converted to propane are Deputy Todd Davis, driver of the vehicle; Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; and Congressman Bobby Scott. The chart illustrates green house gas emissions.



Media attending the press conference were interested in a closer look at the propane-powered cruiser.

A frequently asked question of Deputy Todd Davis is about the performance of the retrofitted car. He assured Ms. Sutley and others that there is no disruption of operations. Also attending the fueling demonstration was United States Representative Bobby Scott, Newport News Mayor McKinley Price, Vice Mayor Bert Bateman and council members Sharon Scott and Rob Coleman.

The Ford Crown Vic operates with the same power and acceleration as the standard gasoline fueled unit. However, with two fuel tanks, it can run much longer before having to be refueled. This can be essential to the Sheriff's Office when transporting prisoners on long highway runs between correctional facilities. Vehicles using propane autogas can go 750 miles without refueling. The range increase is due to having two tanks of fuel in the vehicle. When the propane tank is empty, the engine automatically switches to the gasoline tank.

Sheriff Gabe Morgan said, "It was a good decision

to convert some of our vehicles to a clean-burning fuel, and I support the City's efforts to convert additional vehicles."



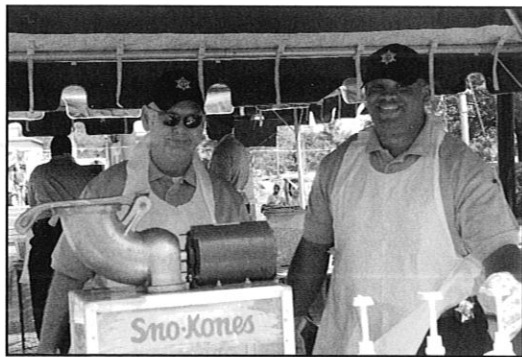
Converted cruiser on the road. Propane decal helps educate citizens on environmentally sustainable practices and cost-savings efforts being made by the City of Newport News.

SHERIFF'S CHILD ID FESTIVAL MAKES SAFETY FUN

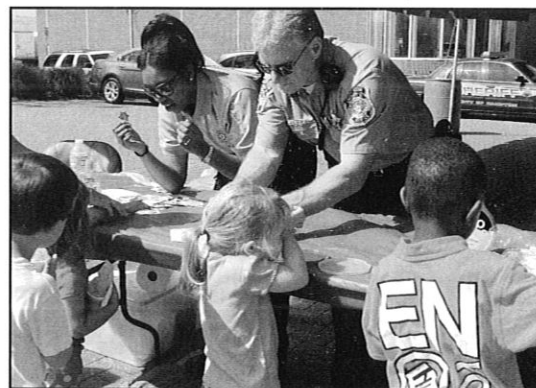
LIEUTENANT ALONZO CHERRY, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

The Hampton Sheriff's Office sponsored its 9th Annual Child ID Festival in the spring at scenic Carousel Park in Downtown Hampton, anchored on one side by the Virginia Air and Space Museum and on the other side by the beautiful Hampton Marina. Each year, the event draws hundreds of people for the four-hour event on a day dedicated to educating parents about child safety. The festival is completely free and open to the public. More than 45 Hampton Sheriff Deputies volunteered their afternoon to promote child safety. In addition to Deputies fingerprinting and photographing more than 350 children, they also manned several stations where children jumped on Moon Walks and snacked on

snow cones, popcorn and cotton candy, all compliments of the Sheriff's Office. Bubbles the Clown was a huge addition to the 2012 event providing games, dances and children Sumo wrestling throughout the day. Another vendor adding to the day's fun was Home Depot, supplying more than 200 youth building kits for children to hammer and create toys and small scale construction items. Parents also had access to free gun safety locks to further safeguard their homes. Hampton Sheriff vehicles were on hand for children to have a seat, blast the siren or flash the lights. All in all, it was a good day filled with laughter, smiles, safety and good clean fun.



Deputy W. Tysinger and Deputy J. Davis keep the snow cones ready on a warm afternoon.



Deputy T. Kinzer and Deputy A. Cline place temporary tattoos on a line of waiting children at the festival.