



# SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – April 5, 2010

## SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES MOVEMENT OF D.A.R.E. OFFICERS

Four of Salem's Public Schools are getting new D.A.R.E. and resource officers when the next school year begins in September 2010. Police Chief Jeff Dudley announced the moves this morning and at the same time confirmed that the D.A.R.E. program will remain intact in Salem.

"With the economy the way it is we are fortunate that we are going to be able to keep officers in our schools," says Dudley. "We're glad the city has found a way to keep the D.A.R.E. program in the classrooms for our children."

Bryan Jenkins, who has served as the School Resource Officer at Salem High School since March 2004, has asked to return to the patrol division as a road officer. His eventual return to the streets created a need to shift officers to new schools and assume new responsibilities.

<u>OFFICER:</u>	<u>NEW POSITION:</u>
Marge Dillon	School Resource Officer at Salem High School
Brian Robertson	D.A.R.E. Officer/Resource Officer at Andrew Lewis Middle
Rob Hefner	D.A.R.E. Officer at East Salem & South Salem

Officer Shaun Chelgreen will continue to lead the D.A.R.E. program at both West Salem and G.W. Carver elementary schools.

"We are thankful for the relationship we have with the Salem Police Department," says Salem School Superintendent, Dr. Alan Seibert. "The School Resource Officer and D.A.R.E. programs are shining examples of the many collaborative efforts between City Departments and the School Division. By empowering students with information to make good decisions and cultivating positive relationships between law enforcement and youth, our partnerships with the Salem Police Department are a profoundly meaningful investment in the future of our community."

Officers Dillon and Robertson have extensive experience in the Salem D.A.R.E. program, and Officer Hefner is currently teaching the D.A.R.E. curriculum part-time at South Salem.

“We knew when Rob came here in 2006 that his destiny was to be a D.A.R.E. officer,” says Dudley. “He taught D.A.R.E. full-time in Culpeper and last year was the Virginia D.A.R.E. Association’s president.

Salem was one of the original 13 jurisdictions included in Virginia’s launch of the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program back in the mid-1980s and while the curriculum is designed for kindergarten through fourth grade students, Salem has expanded the program over the years to touch students in all grades.

“We have an excellent working relationship with the schools and there’s no doubt that the presence of these officers creates a good positive influence on our children,” says Dudley.

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