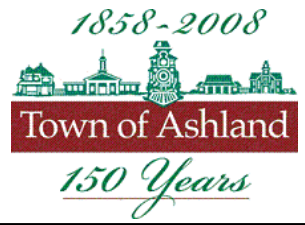




News Release  
Ashland Police Department  
[www.ashlandpolice.us](http://www.ashlandpolice.us)  
Douglas A. Goodman, Chief  
Date: 10/8/2008



**The Ashland Police Department recently received recognition from the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles for the “Most Improved Seat Belt Use” for jurisdictions in the Commonwealth of Virginia.**

Ashland officers conducted a pre-enforcement seatbelt use survey in early May at the intersection of North Washington Highway and England Street. This survey revealed that only 74% of motorists were wearing seatbelts. The department then conducted an intense enforcement and public education period. A post enforcement survey was then conducted at the same intersection, which revealed that seatbelt usage had increased to 96 %, the most improved in the Commonwealth.

We remind motorists to continue to protect themselves and their passengers and wear their seatbelts.



#### **Facts Related to the Town of Ashland Traffic Accidents:**

The total number of reportable crashes in 2007 was 144, as compared to 183, which were investigated in 2006. This was a twenty-one percent (21%) decrease from 2006.

There were a total of forty-six (46) parties injured in crashes in 2007, compared to forty-two (42) crashes resulting in injuries to parties in 2006. This was a nine percent (9%) increase in injuries.

