POLICE DEPARTMENT
101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 540-434-4436
Chief Stephen P. Monticelli

For Immediate Release
11/26/2013

Contact: Harrisonburg Police Department
                  Officer Rachel C. Hammer
                  540-437-2671
                  RCHammer@HarrisonburgVA.gov
                  www.harrisonburgva.gov/police

Harrisonburg Police Offer Safety Tips for Holiday Shoppers

With large numbers of shoppers in and about Harrisonburg retail centers the Harrisonburg Police urge citizens to be extra vigilant about their safety and belongings.

HPD offers the following tips for increased safety:

SHOPPERS

- Don't leave purchased items visible in the car; put them in the trunk.

- When shopping at night use parking lots that have adequate lighting.

- Be aware of your surroundings at all times and move to and from your vehicle with confidence and "purpose".

- Have keys ready *before* getting to your car so you do not have to search for them while standing near it.

- Make sure purses and wallets are secure on your person at all times. Beware of people asking for assistance and brushing up against you.

- Keep the cash you carry at a minimum or put it into different pockets so all is not lost if your purse or wallet is misplaced or stolen.

- Keep track of all credit cards and keep receipts to compare with your monthly statement.

- Report suspicious people or activity to law enforcement *immediately!*

POLICE DEPARTMENT
101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 540-434-4436
Chief Stephen P. Monticelli

Business Resource Officer MPO David Puffenbarger says that area stores will be crowded with adults and children. He stresses the importance of children knowing their basic personal information.

"Make sure your child knows family contact information in case you are separated" says Puffenbarger. "Teach them to look for a police officer or security guard when seeking help."

For additional public safety information check out www.HarrisonburgVA.gov/police, www.facebook.com/harrisonburgpolicedepartment, or contact Officer Hammer, HPD's Community Resource Officer at 540-437-2672 (RCHammer@HarrisonburgVA.gov).

###