

Officer Runyon Receives Award from Local Chamber

Officer Johnny Runyon received the 2009 March/April Officer of the Month Award from the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce for his efforts to save the life of a Roanoke County citizen.

On April 29, School Resource Officer Johnny Runyon was on duty at William Byrd Middle School when he learned of a number of students text messaging with another student who had stayed home. The messages revealed the student was contemplating suicide. Officer Runyon took quick action to identify the student in distress and his whereabouts. Other officers received information from Officer Runyon and were quick to arrive at the student's location. By the time the officers arrived, the student had consumed a large quantity of anti-depressant medication and was unresponsive. The officers began taking action with the juvenile until the emergency responders arrived. The student was taken to the hospital where he received treatment and survived.

Without the quick actions of Officer Runyon to investigate further and send out the information to nearby officers, a delay in response may have proved fatal to the student. Officer Runyon has been with the Department for over eight years and has served as a resource officer for six.



Officer Johnny Runyon