

The Lynnhaven Dunes Condominium Association values the rights to a strip of beach along the Chesapeake Bay at \$1.5 million, court do



**KERRY DOUGHERTY**  
OPINION

## WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING SHERIFFS WHO ARE POLITICIANS?

**I**KE MOST new moms, I received dozens of merry messages when my first baby was born almost 25 years ago.

But one card stood out. Instead of storks or teddy bears, this one was emblazoned with the official seal of the then-sheriff of Virginia Beach.

Inside was a hand-scrawled note from a man I barely knew, congratulating me on the arrival of my daughter.

I felt special. Until I talked to my friends, that is. Turned out other bawling Beach babies received hearty hellos from the sheriff.

He was building a political base, one new mother – and baby – at a time.

Genius.

Writing notes, escorting funeral processions and using inmate labor to clean roads and fix houses for the elderly aren't duties you'll find in any Virginia sheriff's manual. But they're every bit as important to these retail politicians as their actual jobs. You know, serving pa-

## MANSLAUGHTER | SENTENCING



VICKI CRONIS-NOHE | VIRGINIAN-PILOT FILE PHOTO

Cindy Calloway, left, and her mother, Kaye Peters, shown at a memorial in their home for Calloway's daughter Christina in 2011, didn't want the driver charged.

# Drunken driver given 18 months in friend's death



**Michael Dan Mills III was drunk when his truck hit a tree, and Christina Calloway was killed.**

By Scott Daugherty  
*The Virginian-Pilot*

### CHESAPEAKE

Christina Calloway's mother never wanted the man responsible for her daughter's death to be arrested.

That, however, didn't keep a Circuit Court judge Tuesday from sentencing Michael Dan Mills III to 18 months in jail. He was drunk at the time of the Aug. 14, 2011, crash and needed to be punished.

"This is an accident that is un-

fortunately too common," Judge John W. Brown said.

State sentencing guidelines recommended that Mills receive only probation. Prosecutors asked for at least a year.

Mills, now 24, pleaded guilty last year to involuntary manslaughter. According to court documents, Mills was driving his 2005 Ford F-150 pickup about 2:30 a.m. when he veered off the road and struck a tree in the 1200 block of

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