

Virginia Beach Police Department

Chief James A. Cervera

occasio facit furem - opportunity makes the thief



Summer 2012

CRIME PREVENTION CHRONICLE



www.VBgov.com

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CAR LARCENY PREVENTION

- Remember to lock your vehicles and take your keys with you.
- Keep valuables out of sight.
- Immediately report all suspicious activity to the police

Emergency: call 911
Non-emergency: 385-5000

Staying Safe During The Summer

You've got to love summer! Whether you plan on leaving town to get away from it all, visiting the beach, having a cookout, or doing a "stay-cation" in town, it's always a guaranteed good time. Don't let crooks spoil your summer break. By taking a few simple precautions, you can prevent yourself and your family from becoming potential victims. If you plan on going out of town, ask trusted neighbors to look after your home and picking up any newspapers and advertisement flyers left to pile up on your porch. They indicate "no one is home." You might ask that trusted neighbor to park one of their vehicles in your driveway or in front of your house so that it looks like someone is home. Make sure your home is securely locked – that means all windows and exterior doors – and use dusk to dawn lighting on the outside of your home. It is also a good idea to invest in a simple interior timer for a few lights inside your residence to give the appearance someone is home.

If you are traveling with children, be sure to keep direct supervision over them at all times and before you leave, discuss a plan of action they should follow in case you get separated. Make sure your children know the name of the hotel or resort where you are staying. Remind them not to wander away from you and that the same rules regarding strangers still apply, even more so, when you are away from home.

Make sure your safety plans include safety around the water. Talk to your children about water safety and NEVER leave children unattended around water. For tips about swimming safely at the beach, please visit: http://www.vbls.org/beach_safety.htm.

Have a great summer and stay safe!

BE AWARE OF UNWANTED SOLICITORS DURING SUMMER MONTHS!

While alarms are an excellent means of protecting homes and business, and most companies in Virginia are legitimate, during the summer months some out of state alarm companies stretch legitimacy in an attempt to make a quick buck. A trend in recent years is to hire temporary workers to enter Virginia and sell alarm services door-to-door. Often the employees are college students hired for the summer who have been trained minimally in alarm sales but otherwise have no background in alarm sales, monitoring or services. The temporary employees frequently practice "high pressure" tactics and sell relatively inexpensive alarm systems that generate most of their cost from the monitoring fees. Some have blatantly committed fraud.

The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) regulates all alarm companies and their employees, including sales staff. DCJS Investigators have encountered the temporary sales employees through citizen complaints in both the Tidewater and far southwest regions of the Commonwealth. The Administrative Code relating to all burglar and security alarm sales employees in Virginia (6 VAC 20-171-30) states that prior to their being hired each person must submit to DCJS: completed fingerprints cards, fingerprint processing application, an applicable nonrefundable fee, and all criminal history conviction information on a form provided by the department. This regulation demonstrates the purpose of the DCJS oversight in ensuring those persons entering a resident's home or a business do not have a criminal history. Each electronic security sales representative must also work for a business which is licensed in Virginia.

The Virginia Beach Police Department encourages all citizens to be aware and observant of door-to-door sales, an increase in alarm company vehicles in the neighborhood, and hearing of high pressure sales tactics from others. If visited by a person identifying themselves as an alarm sales representative, whom you doubt the legitimacy of, do not allow them to enter your home. Request to see their required DCJS issued photograph registration card and take down the information from it. If you are interested in the product, you may contact DCJS directly at (804) 786-4700 to verify the legitimacy of the representative and call them back later for an invited sales visit. If the sales person is pushy, refuses to show their registration card or otherwise acts suspicious, write down their personal description and that of their vehicle, and immediately call the Police Non-Emergency Number – 385-5000.

Please also be aware that, Per Article II, Section 26-26 of the Virginia Beach City Code, door-to-door solicitors must have a copy of the City-issued Solicitor's permit on their person at the time they are soliciting. Some businesses, such as charitable, non-profit organizations and civic or religious organizations are exempt from this requirement. However, they must be registered with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. You can verify their standing by visiting www.vdacs.virginia.gov

For more information on all of the private security services regulated by DCJS you may wish to visit the DCJS web site at <http://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/>. For more information on various recent scams and fraud schemes, please visit the Federal Trade Commission website at <http://www.ftc.gov/>

LADIES' NIGHT AT HOME DEPOT!

The Crime Prevention Unit is pleased to announce that we are partnering up with Home Depot to help spread the word about crime prevention measures for your home. The Home Depot at Princess Anne Road and Lynnhaven Parkway has a "Ladies' Night" on the first Tuesday of each month. The Virginia Beach Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will be co-hosting on August 7th and October 2nd, then again in the winter and spring of 2013.

August 7th is National Night Out and Home Depot will be participating by having a Ladies Night concentrating on home improvements that will curtail the opportunity for crime to strike the home. Motion sensor lights will be the focus and how to choose, place and install them yourself. Ladies Night is open to all women and girls.

Please come out and support their National Night Out and learn how to make your home safer!



LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Get Active, Get Together,
Get Rid of Crime!

*Just a friendly reminder!
If you haven't sent in your registration form for National Night Out, which will be on August 7, 2012, please do so right away! Please call the Crime Prevention Unit at 385-1006 for more information.*

UPCOMING MEETINGS & ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ◇ The **Virginia Beach Crime Prevention Steering Committee meeting** meets at 7pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Plaza Middle School in the “KIVA” room. For more information, contact MPO Jim McElligott at 385-1330.
- ◇ For **lectures** by a Crime Prevention Officer, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 385-1006. Some available topics are Personal Safety, Youth Safety, Senior Safety, Home Security, Identity Theft, Shoplifting and Robbery Prevention, and establishing a Neighborhood Watch.
- ◇ **Explorer Post 911** meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. Minimum requirements for members is 9th grade or above, and age 14-21. For more information about membership, visit vbgov.com or contact MPO David Nieves at 385-1338.
- ◇ Report **graffiti** problems at vbgov.com. The Code Enforcement Division can remove graffiti that is on private property and visible from the public right-of-way, at no cost to the property owner.

Phone Numbers:

Emergencies or crimes in progress..... 9-1-1

Non-emergency police/fire/rescue.....385-5000

City information/services/news/events..... 3-1-1

If you call from a cell phone, call.....385-3111

*Newsletter compiled and edited by
members of the Crime Prevention Unit
All or parts of this newsletter may be copied.
Questions or comments, please call 385-1006*

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