



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

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Important Numbers:

- * **Emergency 911**
- * **Non-Emergency**
703-777-1021
703-777-0445
- * **Poison Control**
1-800-222-1222
- * **Animal Control**
703-777-0406
- * **Sheriff's Office Admin**
703-777-0407
- * **Narcotic Tip Line**
703-779-0552
- * **Crime Solvers**
703-777-1919

Issue 16

February 1, 2010

Commercial Burglaries/Construction Larcenies

There has been a recent surge in construction site larcenies and commercial burglaries throughout the county.

Construction sites can be the target of thieves for a number of reasons from building supplies to copper. Since most work sites do not do work after dark due to the safety risk and lack of lighting this can be an opportune time for a thief.

Commercial areas can also be a target for crime. This is due to many reasons. A couple of these being -

-most businesses have free access and potential thief's know exactly what is in them.

-most businesses have money that is held in certain areas, such as a cash register, safes, or even a drawer.

The crime prevention unit suggests that citizens keep a close eye on work sites or around areas of construction in the evening or after dark.

Business owners should also be aware of the rising trend of commercial burglaries and ensure that their businesses have a working alarm system and locks.

The citizens are reminded that they can call the Sheriff's Office to report any suspicious activity. Deputies will come out to the site and check to see if the persons are legitimate workers

or would be thieves. Putting a stop to this activity will help deter other types of crime from finding their way into your neighborhood.



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office will do free business security checks. For more information about this service call DFC Nathaniel Payne 703-777-0477 or DS James Spurlock 703-771-5749

WARNING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WE ARE WATCHING TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR PERSONS

TO

LOUDOUN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Disaster Relief

Disasters normally bring out many people bent on tricking others to get money. During this time it is always important to keep your guard up and remember not all people are honest.

Fake charity scams often set up quasi-legitimate agencies so that, at first glance, they look real. They may also

name themselves something similar to other legitimate agencies. They may even carry an ID in the name of the charity.

Ask for the address or phone number of the charity and whether or not it's registered. If the presenters claim that it is registered, get a registration number. The Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance

offers information about national charities. You can call them at **703-276-0100** or check out this website www.give.org. If you are trying to find out whether the charity is worthy of your support check out the reports section of the website.

Frequently Asked Questions

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov or James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov

Security Cameras

Questions are always coming in about security cameras, their use and effectiveness. Installing them can be an expensive undertaking. There are a few things you should know about these cameras before buying one.

Camera systems have 3 major components.

1. Camera
2. Cable
3. Monitor/recording media

People always assume that the best camera available is always better for their security system. In fact this is not the case. For example, lets pretend we have a cameras that takes pictures with 100 pixles. If we have a cable that can only support 50 pixles our picture drops to 50 pixles. If we then have a recording device that is recording from a monitor only supporting 25 pixles, our pixles drop again to 25. So our expensive 100 pixle camera is only recording at 25 pixles. Depending on the system and the framework the best high definition cameras are not always the best option. Also another consideration is that the average camera is replaced every five years.

- system:
1. Cameras will not stop crime, they are there to document it.
 2. Cameras need light to work.
 3. Placement of cameras is important. Cameras are not useful if they can not identify someone.
 4. Recording media should be able to record an acceptable amount of time. Recording media overwrites itself. If that media only has 24 hours of record time there is a potential to lose needed images. (VCR recording systems should change there video tapes often.)
 5. Frames per second (How many pictures the camera takes per second) should be tuned to the area that the camera is in. Lower frames per second should not be watching and area that is quickly passed.

Other things to think about when looking into a camera



Camera



Cable



Hard Drive



Monitor

Upcoming Events

February 20th 10:00 A.M. Personal Safety for kids ages 5 –7 years old Potomac Club in Lansdowne