



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Thefts from Vehicles	1
Getting Involved	1
Burglary Prevention	2
Secret Shopper Scam	2
Upcoming Events	3

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**
703-771-0407
- * **Narcotic Tip Line**
703-779-0552
- * **Crime Solvers**
703-777-1919

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Thefts from Vehicles

Loudoun County residents are still having items stolen from their vehicles. The most common items taken include GPS units, small electronics and money. Some ways to help prevent this are:

1. Remove all items from your vehicle when not in use. When you cannot do this, put the items inside the glove box (lockable ones are preferred).
2. A visible GPS unit is an obvious target, but car prowlers also look for any signs that one might be hidden inside the vehicle, such as a mount on the window or dashboard. Even the circle left on the windshield from a suction cup mount is enough for some crooks to break in. They assume a GPS unit is hidden somewhere inside. So get rid of all tell-tale signs.
3. Park inside your garage, if available, and keep the garage locked. If a garage is unavailable try to park in an illuminated area.
4. **KEEP YOUR VEHICLE LOCKED.** Most stolen items are taken from vehi-

cles that are not locked.

5. If your vehicle is broken into remember to report it to the Sheriff's Office. It is also helpful to have the serial numbers, make, and model of the stolen items available when the deputies arrive.

County wide this is the most frequent criminal event. To help combat this ongoing issue please report suspicious persons you may see in and around your neighborhood. 703-777-1021



WARNING



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WE ARE WATCHING TO
REPORT SUSPICIOUS
ACTIVITY OR PERSONS

TO

**LOUDOUN COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Getting Involved

Citizens regularly ask how they can get involved but fear that their identities will become compromised. To help citizens remain anonymous and still keep them involved we have a few telephone numbers they can call and report information and remain totally anonymous.

- If you suspect narcotics (drug) use or sales you can call the Narcotics Tip Line at 703-779-0552.
- If you suspect gang activity or gang participation you can call 1-866-NO-GANGS.(1-866-664-2647)
- If you have information about a crime that is about to occur or has already occurred you can call the Crime Solvers Line at 703-777-1919.

Working together, we can all help keep our community and families safe.

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

Burglary Prevention

There were a number of residential burglaries that took place during the months of December and January. In nearly every case the burglars struck during times where no one would be home, 6:00 am and 6:00pm. This time frame is the primary time for burglaries across the US. The primary items that burglars are looking for are still small electronic devices such as IPODS, gaming systems, laptops, cameras, jewelry, DVD's and video games. During the incidents some homes were burglarized by forcing entry (breaking windows, locks etc.) In others the burglars found windows or doors unlocked and gained entry without having to force entry.

TIPS:

- When you are not at home **all doors and windows** should be locked.
- Do not keep expensive jewelry out in the open. Hide it in area where burglars would not expect to find it. IE: Shoe box in the linen closet.
- Bag all of your trash so burglars cannot predict what may be in the home.
- Check window and door locks to make sure they are in good condition. With colder weather already here, wooden doors and windows will shrink and locks may not fit as good as they did during the summer months.
- Keep serial numbers documented for any electrical devices. For jewelry take a digital photo and print it out. Store these documents in a safe place. These pieces of information can make it easier for law enforcement recover stole property.
- If you are at home during the day time keep an extra eye out on your neighborhood. Immediately report any suspicious persons you see around the area.
- When in doubt call the Sheriff's Office. We are trained to sort through the details and make a decision about the presence of a person in your neighborhood.

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency: 703-777-1021

Secret Shopper Scam

There have been a recent series of "Secret Shopper Scams" that are arriving through the US Mail. The letter will contain a very convincing looking, but fake check, and a letter with instructions and a list of businesses. These instructions will tell you to deposit the check and then within 24 hours, make a series of transactions or purchases. These instructions will have you complete an evaluation form for each business you completed transaction with. Included in these businesses will be several wire transfers to existing accounts using services such as Western Union or other wire transfer companies. The letter will also state that you may keep any left over funds after the transactions have been

completed. By the time your bank has determined the check is a fake you have spent several thousands of dollars of your money with little to show.

If you receive a letter of this type you should contact the US Postal Inspectors Service to make a report.

US Postal Inspection Service:

1-877-876-2455



Upcoming Events

We are currently seeking input from the community regarding classes they would be interested in attending or would like to see in 2011. Please email us with your ideas and suggestions.

If you live in the Sterling, Cascades, Countyside, Sugarland , Lowes Island , Lansdowne, Purcellville, Lovettsville, and Roundhill, please email james.spurlock@loudoun.gov

If you live in the Ashburn, Brambleton, South Riding, Middleburg, Belmont, and Leesburg please email Nathaniel.payne@loudoun.gov