



McGruff Speaks



UPCOMING EVENTS

Prince William Crime Prevention Council: Monday, March 14th @ 7:30 pm, in Occoquan Room, McCoart Building.

Child Safety Seat Check: April 2nd @ 9 am to 11 am, Potomac Hospital, Also, May 7th @ 9 am to 11 am, Prince William Hospital.

Citizen's Police Academy: Tuesday, June 14th @ 7 pm, Public Service Training Academy, Nokesville. Nine week course. Applications available online: www.pwcgov.org/police or call 703-729-6599.

Citizen's Firearms Safety Program: Saturday, April 23rd @ 8 am to 4 pm, Public Safety Academy, Nokesville. Application deadline is Friday, April 8th, at 5 pm. Available online: www.pwcgov.org/police.

March 2005, Issue 2

Join the Prince William Crime Prevention Council

Come to Our Next Meeting

The Prince William Crime Prevention Council is a nonprofit organization comprised of citizen volunteers and law enforcement personnel. It was established in 1982 for the exclusive purpose of promoting the common good and social welfare of the citizens of Prince William County. The Council's activities include a bimonthly meeting to conduct council business, review current crime trends and receive specialized crime prevention training. These meetings are open to all Neighborhood Watch members. For more information on how you can be involved, call 702-792-7270.



NEXT MEETING:

*Monday, March 14th @ 7:30 pm
Occoquan Room, McCoart Building
Guest Speaker on the "CERT" Program*

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Thank You to Our Contributors

The Crime Prevention Council gratefully acknowledges the recent contributions of local business and businessmen:

- **AOL, Inc.
- *Lawrence R. Muller, D.D.S., P.C., Lake Ridge
- *TODOS, Inc., Woodbridge
- *Hendrick Honda, Woodbridge
- *Prince William Marine Sales
- *F.H. Furr Plumbing, Heating & Air Cars, Inc. of Woodbridge
- Pitkins Home Center, Dale City
- Nicholas Carosi, III, Woodbridge
- Astoria Pizza Restaurant, Woodbridge
- Outback Steakhouse, Woodbridge
- Bristow Manor Golf Club

** Indicates Gold Star Gift of \$1000 or more and * indicates a Bronze Star Gift of \$250 or more.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

Gainsville Spotlight on: DUNBARTON

Location: Nestled in the Braemar subdivision off of Linton Hall Road in Bristow.
Neighborhood Characteristics: "Hometown, USA" style, gated, active adult community surrounded by a large single-family housing development to the south, wooded area to the north, and a shopping center to the east..
Neighborhood Watch: Brand new in 2005, Dunbarton had 77 attendees at their most recent Neighborhood Watch meeting. Enthusiastic residents will be conducting scheduled patrols by vehicle and by foot at various hours throughout the day and night. They will also take turns monitoring the community gate to assist with security and as a deterrent to trespassers. The community has purchased a radio system and flashlights to aid in their patrol efforts.
Discussion topic: Deter skateboarders and trespassing. Dunbarton would like to hear what has worked for other communities.

Send suggestions to SPO Dawn Harman at dharman@pwcgov.org, or 703-792-7266.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW WATCHES:

MAYFAIR
DUNBARTON
MACE COMMUNITY
MAPLEWOOD PARK APTS.

And Welcome to the New Watch Coordinators:

Faye Harshman, Mace
Beth Ann Clayborn, Maplewood
Maria Bosack, Mayfair
Mike Weinstein, Dunbarton



Dumfries Spotlight on: ASHLAND EXECUTIVE

Location: Within the Ashland subdivision off of Spriggs Road in Dumfries.
Neighborhood Characteristics: The perfect community to call home...Ashland Executive is a newer subdivision in the Dumfries area. The community consists of single-family housing located near Forest Park High School. Route 234 (Dumfries Road) and Prince William Forest Park are located south of the subdivision, Minnieville Road is to the west, and Interstate 95 is a short commute to the east.
Neighborhood Watch: Ashland Executive is one of four neighborhood watches located in the Ashland community. They joined Neighborhood Watch last year and have been enthusiastic about the program ever since. The watch consists of 83 homes whose residents are involved whether they are patrolling, organizing meetings to discuss problems within the neighborhood or recruiting new residents.
Recent Events: The watch recently held a meeting to provide Neighborhood Watch refresher training and discuss concerns within the community. The Police Department provided some refresher crime prevention tips. Community issues such as speeding and animal complaints were addressed.

Dale City Watch News

The Dale City Watches held a Coordinators meeting at the Cloverdale Church in Mid-February. Many Watches were present and several topics were discussed. Mr. John Jenkins, BOCS, made a surprise appearance at the meeting giving his support to the Neighborhood Watches. Light refreshments were served afterwards.

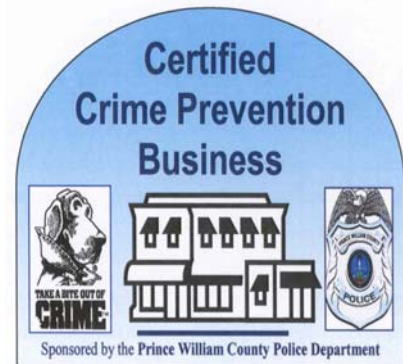
See Your
Neighborhood Watch
Spotlighted

Contact your Area
Officer at the Crime
Prevention Unit



BUSINESS WATCH NEWS

The Prince William County Police Department is now recruiting retail businesses to join the *Certified Crime Prevention Business Program*. This program works to create a law enforcement and business community partnership to make your business a more secure one. The purpose of the program is to encourage businesses to become more involved in reducing the opportunity for crimes to occur at their establishment. This is accomplished by raising awareness and knowledge through written policies and training, implementing recommended security applications, and by increased communication and cooperation between businesses and the Police Department. Call now to find out how you can work with Prince William County Police to make your business and community a safer one!



FLEET WATCH NEWS

SPOTLIGHT ON: YELLOW CAB

The Yellow Cab Company of Prince William County has been a member of the Prince William County Police Department's Fleet Watch Program for many years. Recently, the Yellow Cab drivers received Personal Safety training through the Prince William County Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit. Faced with recent robberies, the Yellow Cab Company became armed with awareness and crime prevention techniques. *It paid off!* Several employees of the Yellow Cab Company assisted the police in arresting a man who is suspected of committing several robberies against their own cab drivers! A big kudos goes out to Yellow Cab of Prince William for their efforts in Crime Prevention! *Keep up the good work!*



Personal Safety

Home Security

Business Security

Robbery Prevention

Internet Safety

Identity Theft

Safety for Seniors

Workplace Safety

Neighborhood Watch

Training Offered by the Crime Prevention Unit

The Prince William County Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit is dedicated to providing education and training to the citizens of Prince William County. Crime prevention is more than just security — it is a community.

The Crime Prevention Unit offers professional training programs for housing communities as well as community organizations. These programs will teach you how you can reduce your chances of becoming a victim by raising your

awareness level and teaching commonly used crime prevention techniques.

Schedule a training for your neighborhood or group today by calling 703-792-7270.

Business Crime Prevention

Prince William County Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit is also dedicated to training businesses on how they can minimize their chances of becoming victims of crime.

Businesses in the County have taken advantage of such training as Personal Safety, Identity Theft, Robbery Prevention and Workplace Safety.

Any training can be tailored to your business. Call now and make safety a priority for your business! Please contact 703-792-7270 for more information.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Here it is the dead of winter — a time when we just want to stay indoors nice and warm. Unfortunately, criminals don't stay inside and there are many incidents taking place around us as seen in the monthly reports. We have to keep up our Neighborhood Watch activities even when the weather is not so kind to us. Keep up with your patrols and share any information that you receive with your fellow Watch members. One way to share information is to attend the bi-monthly Crime Prevention Council Meetings at the McCourt Building. There is always a guest speaker to share important crime-related information and tips as well as some other useful county related news and activity. This is also a great way to get valuable information from other Watch members as to how they deal with criminal activity in their neighborhoods. "Networking" is a great way to share ideas and there is always some fine food and drink after every meeting. Please come down to the next meeting. You may have valuable information to share and, as always, the council would love to hear any comments or recommendations that you may have to help us improve the overall program. So come on out to the next scheduled meeting. We'd love to see you!

Bob Huisman, President



"Eighty-five percent of car seats observed at SAFE KIDS BUCKLE UP events were misused, with an average of two errors per seat".

For more information about the inspection program, please call 703-792-6583.

From The Vice President:

Hello to all;

First off I wanted to say thank you to everyone for making my recent appointment as Vice President an easy one. I must admit I was a little nervous. But the support has been great and what has made it easier is the commitment I have seen to the Crime Prevention Council from its board members. It is refreshing to see so many individuals take so much interest in their communities. It is because of your efforts that Prince William County is a better place to live in. With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to bring up a few things. I feel that the time has come to strengthen the ranks and bring up the level of involvement in the Crime Prevention Council. I have seen that the council's true strength lies in its various members from different areas of the county. I feel that it is time to reach out to the different Watches and encourage more involvement. It is with the involvement of new people that the potential for new ideas come. I believe that with such proactive Watches in the area, it is time to look outside our own communities and come together and live up to the title of "A Certified Crime Prevention Community." I encourage all attendees of the March 14th general meeting to use the open forum to bring ideas to the Council on how to increase participation and attendance. Also try to invite new members of your own Watches to come with you if they have not done so in the past. I suggest we make it a goal as a community to increase our attendance two fold by the May general meeting. Thanks! Be well and safe.

Officer Alex Dominguez, Vice President



The Department of Fire and Rescue is now accepting applications for the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). Session 1 begins Tuesday, April 12th and Session 8 concludes Saturday, May 7th. Most sessions are held at the Public Safety Training Academy, Nokesville. This program helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. CERT training includes disaster preparedness, disaster fire suppression, basic disaster medical operations, and light search and rescue operations. For more information, please call 703-792-4362 or visit the website: www.pwcgov.org/fire.

**PRINCE
WILLIAM
CRIME
PREVENTION
COUNCIL**



Neighborhood Watch Products for Sale

Neighborhood Watch Hat - \$5

Neighborhood Watch Vest - \$13

Neighborhood Watch Shirt - \$10

Magnetic Car Sign - \$14

PWCPC Coffee Mug - \$10



CRIME ALERTS!

CHURCH BURGLARIES

Since the beginning of January, 2005 there have been eleven church burglaries throughout Prince William County. The incidents occurred on various days of the week, in the evening and early morning hours. The suspects broke out windows or pried doors open to gain entry and took small items that were easy to carry from the scene, such as keys, briefcases and laptop computers. Residents are asked to be aware and alert of suspicious activities near neighborhood churches and contact the police immediately upon observation of any unusual activity.

BURGLARIES AT BEAU RIDGE IN WOODBRIDGE

This community was the target of daytime burglaries—between 9 am and 4:30 pm—possibly involving more than one individual. The suspects gained entry by breaking a window and then taking fairly small items that could be concealed easily, such as in a book bag. Items taken were those that young adults or juveniles would take. Residents were asked to be aware and on the lookout for suspicious persons and/or activity such as: people knocking on doors during the day, wandering around behind residences, carrying items through the area that typical people wouldn't carry, and teenagers in the area during school hours.

SPRING IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Spring Crime Prevention Tips



Before you know it, the daffodils will bloom, the kids will be out on their bikes, neighbors will be doing yard work and, oh yes, Spring will be here! Not only will the crab grass and robins return, but so will milder spring nights bring criminals looking for easy targets. We all will be thinking about our gardens; but have we asked ourselves: *Is my property and yard safe?* Are views from neighboring properties or streets obscured by trees, bushes or fences? Are there any adult-sized hiding spots around my doors or windows? Are there areas of contrast and shadow around my house or sheds where intruders could stay undetected? Does my property have an uninvited-in or unkept look?

To avoid being seen or caught, intruders look for property they can get into and out of quickly. Their ideal target is a house surrounded by large hedges or shrubs, which hamper visibility from the street and neighbor's houses. Spring clean-up is a great time to trim shrubbery and trees so doors and windows are visible to neighbors and from the street. But, trimmed landscaping should not provide concealment for criminals. If the home has a second floor, prune trees so they can't help a thief climb in second floor windows. Place trellises where they can't be used as ladders to gain entry to upper floors. Shrubby by sidewalks, driveways, and doors should be maintained at a height of two feet or less. Shrubs taller than four feet should be kept at least eight feet away from sidewalks, doors, driveways and gates. Under windows plants should be maintained at a height that is below the window. Large gauge gravel on the ground near windows is a good idea. The noise caused by an intruder walking on it can be a psychological barrier. Also, small gardens next to bedroom windows are a good idea. An intruder may not look out of place leaning against a window with no barrier; but he looks very suspicious standing in your flower box. Do not place large rocks or other items near glass windows or doors. These could provide the intruder with tools to break in. A thorny bush or plant along fences and under windows could discourage possible burglars, like using barbed wire only more attractive. Lastly, proper lighting around your house, sheds and fences deters unwelcome visitors (both human and animal). If you have any question as to how your property can be made safer, call the Crime Prevention Unit for a Home Security Survey.

A criminal entering your community wants the easiest and quickest target. Intruders will look elsewhere when you make your property look maintained, lighted, and conspicuous to the street!

Important Numbers & Assigned Areas

Lake Ridge Neighborhood Watches 703-792-4412	Officer Mike Alvey malvey@pwcgov.org
Gainesville Neighborhood Watches 703-793-7266	Officer Dawn Harman dharman@pwcgov.org
Woodbridge, Dumfries, Triangle/Quantico Neighborhood Watches 703-792-7240	Officer Kim Winston kwinston@pwcgov.org
Dale City Neighborhood Watches 703-792-7231	Officer Steve Varvaro svarvaro@pwcgov.org
Manassas Neighborhood Watches, Spanish Speaking Events 703-792-7232	Officer Alex Dominguez adominguez@pwcgov.org
Business Watch, Fleet Watch, Inn Watch, Worship Watch 703-792-4425 or 4446	Ashley York, Crime Prevention Coord. ayork@pwcgov.org Rich Buchholz, Crime Prevention Coord. rbuchholz@pwcgov.org

Police Non-Emergency 703-792-6500

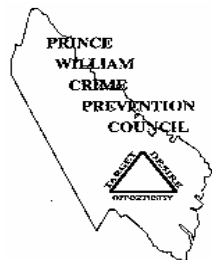
Emergency/ fire/ rescue/ police 911

Crime Prevention Unit :

Sgt. Bill Anzenberger 703-792-7267

wanzenberger@pwcgov.org

Secretary Mary Ann Childs 703-792-7270



Prince William Crime Prevention Council
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