

EDITION 41

MAY 2010

Fair Oaks District Station



Proudly Serving the Community

FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Fair Oaks District
Community Connection

SUMMER SAFETY: BACK TO BASICS

Summer Scam Basics:

Regardless of the business, whether it's a door-to-door encounter, one over the telephone or even over the internet, here are some basic safety tips you should **ALWAYS** follow:

- **NEVER** make a commitment after initial contact.
- **ALWAYS** research the company first through referrals, the Better Business Bureau, Fairfax County Department of Consumer Affairs and even the internet. Make sure the company is properly licensed, insured and reputable.
- **NEVER** take verbal estimates or quotes. Get it in writing!
- Show your identification if required but do **NOT** relinquish it.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it is.
- Do **NOT** succumb to intimidation. Call police immediately.
- Ask to see proper company identification. Call and verify.
- **NEVER** leave persons unattended in your home.
- **NEVER** divulge personal information to include vacation plans.
- **ALWAYS** trust your gut. Place safety over politeness!

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Events of Interest :

- **May 9 - Mother's Day**
- **May 15 - Armed Forces Day**
- **May 31 - Memorial Day**



Neighborhood Watch Training Dates for 2010!

The Fair Oaks District Police Station has two training dates remaining for the Neighborhood Watch Program. As usual, they will be held at the station, located at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, at 7 p.m. in the roll call room. These opportunities are designed for communities that want to expand their existing participation, those who wish to begin a new Watch program or those who would like a refresher course.

We look forward to serving you and maintaining the quality of community and police partnerships that we have both come to depend on and enjoy.

Mark Your Calendars



NOW!



The remaining training dates are as follows:

- Tuesday, July 20
- Tuesday, October 19



Request a Neighborhood Watch Program for Your Community Today!

The requirement is a short and simple one-time, two-hour training commitment. Learn how to detect, react to and report criminal or suspicious behaviors. Know how to better protect yourself and your community.

For more information, contact your Crime Prevention Officer at the Fair Oaks District Police Station: MPO Sophia Grinnan at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AND CAC MEMBERS PLEASE READ!



CAC END-OF-THE-YEAR PICNIC!

The next Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting will be on June 29th at 7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Heliport, 4604 West Ox Road in Fairfax. We will close out this great year with our annual end-of-the-year cookout.



Our next Citizen's Advisory Council meeting after that will resume in September on the last Tuesday of every month beginning at 7 p.m. We will still assemble in the roll call room of the Fair Oaks District Police Station located at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Fairfax.

We have enjoyed a spectacular year with you and look forward to another fruitful session this fall.



Fairfax County Police Department CRIME ALERT!

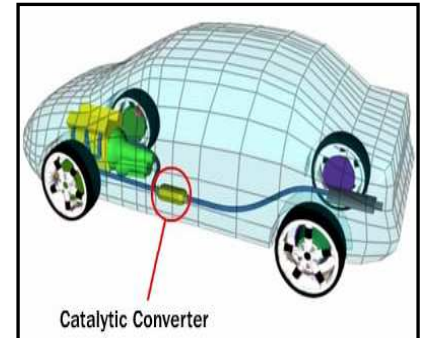
CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

In the past few months, there has been an increase in catalytic converters stolen from automobiles. This has occurred at commuter lots, and neighborhoods throughout the county.

This kind of theft has also been discovered in neighboring jurisdictions.

The thefts in Fairfax County have been occurring during daytime and nighttime hours, mostly during the work week. Suspect descriptions vary. Toyotas have been frequently targeted, although not exclusively.

Community members are strongly encouraged to be aware of suspicious activity during the course of your normal business day. Whether you are driving through your neighborhood, metro lots or business complexes be alert of your surroundings. Don't confront criminals!



PLEASE remember to report ALL suspicious activity immediately by calling:



A Fairfax County, Va.
Publication



Emergency: 9-1-1 (in-progress calls)

Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131 (reports only)

CALLERS MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Fairfax County Crime Solvers 4100 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.



SUMMER SCAM: RESIDENTIAL SECURITY ALARM SOLICITORS



Electronic security systems are an excellent means of protecting homes and businesses and most alarm companies in Virginia are legitimate. A trend in recent years has been that some out-of-state alarm companies hire temporary workers to enter Virginia and sell alarm services door to door. Often, the salespeople are college students, hired for the summer, who have minimal training in alarm systems and monitoring. They frequently practice “high pressure” tactics and sell relatively inexpensive alarm systems that generate most of their cost from the monitoring fees.



The Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) regulates all alarm companies and their employees, including sales staff. The regulations pertaining to all such services are written to protect the consumer and citizens from unscrupulous persons. 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, a fingerprint processing application, an applicable nonrefundable fee and all criminal history conviction information on a form provided by the department. Through this process DCJS ensures that those persons entering a resident’s home or business, who have access to your valuables do not have a criminal history. Each electronic security sales representative must also work for a licensed business in Virginia. The sales representative is required to become registered as an electronic security sales representative in Virginia as specified in the regulations.



The Fairfax County Police Department encourages all citizens to be aware and observant of door-to-door alarm systems solicitors. If you see these individuals or an increase in alarm company vehicles in your neighborhood, please report them to the Fairfax County Police Department through the non-emergency police number at **703-691-2131**. Do not fall victim to high pressure sales tactics from anyone. If you encounter an alarm sales representative, whose legitimacy you question, do **not** allow them to enter your home. Remember, the best practice is to speak to solicitors through your closed door. They can hear you! You may request to see their required DCJS issued photograph registration card and solicitors license and take down the information from it. If you are interested in the product, you may contact the DCJS directly at (804) 786-4700 or call to verify their legitimacy and call them at a later date for an invited sales visit. If the sales person is pushy, refuses to show their registration card or otherwise acts suspicious, write down their description and that of their vehicle, and immediately call police.



This is **STILL** a problem....



The Fair Oaks District is experiencing too many thefts from vehicles!

How are they breaking in?

- Breaking windows
- **Entering through unlocked doors!**
- Bypassing locking systems



How do you protect your valuables?

TAKE THEM OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE!

The reason people steal personal belongings from your car is because they see something they want. Remember, what is not valuable to you may be the object of their desire.

PLEASE take the extra time to **physically** remove your CD player, blue tooth, laptop, GPS, CDs, purse, radio, etc. from your vehicle. Remove any empty bags or briefcases to relieve the criminals' curiosities.

Render your car **UNATTRACTIVE!**



Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



§ 46.2-1078. Unlawful to operate motor vehicle, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped while using earphones.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle, bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, or moped on the highways in the Commonwealth while using earphones on or in both ears.

For the purpose of this section, "earphones" shall mean any device worn on or in both ears that converts electrical energy to sound waves or which impairs or hinders the person's ability to hear, but shall not include (i) any prosthetic device that aids the hard of hearing, (ii) earphones installed in helmets worn by motorcycle operators and riders and used as part of a communications system, or (iii) nonprosthetic, closed-ear, open-back, electronic noise-cancellation devices designed and used to enhance the hearing ability of persons who operate vehicles in high-noise environments, provided any such device is being worn by the operator of a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or more. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the driver of any emergency vehicle as defined in § 46.2-920.

§ 46.2-800. Riding bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, or mopeds; riding or driving animals.

Every person riding a bicycle, electric personal assistive mobility device, electric power-assisted bicycle, moped, or an animal or driving an animal on a highway shall be subject to the provisions of this chapter and shall have all of the rights and duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle, unless the context of the provision clearly indicates otherwise.

The provisions of subsections A and C of § 46.2-920 applicable to operation of emergency vehicles under emergency conditions shall also apply, mutatis mutandis, to bicycles, electric personal assistive mobility devices, electric power-assisted bicycles, and mopeds operated under similar emergency conditions by law-enforcement officers.

§ 46.2-852. Reckless driving; general rule.

Irrespective of the maximum speeds permitted by law, any person who drives a vehicle on any highway recklessly or at a speed or in a manner so as to endanger the life, limb, or property of any person shall be guilty of reckless driving.

§ 46.2-810. Age limits for drivers of public passenger-carrying vehicles.

No person, whether licensed or not, under the age of eighteen years shall drive a motor vehicle while in use as a public passenger-carrying vehicle.

But wait... There is more... →



Dodge a Ticket...Did You Know?



§ 46.2-1078.1. Use of handheld personal communications devices in certain motor vehicles; exceptions; penalty.

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a moving motor vehicle on the highways in the Commonwealth while using any handheld personal communications device to:

1. Manually enter multiple letters or text in the device as a means of communicating with another person; or
2. Read any email or text message transmitted to the device or stored within the device, provided that this prohibition shall not apply to any name or number stored in the device nor to any caller identification information.

B. The provisions of this section shall not apply to:

1. The operator of any emergency vehicle;
2. An operator who is lawfully parked or stopped;
3. The use of factory-installed or aftermarket global positioning systems (GPS) or wireless communications devices used to transmit or receive data as part of a digital dispatch system; or
4. Any person using a handheld personal communications device to report an emergency.

C. No citation for a violation of this section shall be issued unless the officer issuing such citation has cause to stop or arrest the driver of such motor vehicle for the violation of some other provision of this Code or local ordinance relating to the operation, ownership, or maintenance of a motor vehicle or any criminal statute.

D. A violation of any provision of this section shall constitute a traffic infraction punishable, for a first offense, by a fine of \$20 and, for a second or subsequent offense, by a fine of \$50.

For the purposes of this section, "emergency vehicle" means:

1. Any law-enforcement vehicle operated by or under the direction of a federal, state, or local law-enforcement officer while engaged in the performance of official duties;
2. Any regional detention center vehicle operated by or under the direction of a correctional officer responding to an emergency call or operating in an emergency situation;
3. Any vehicle used to fight fire, including publicly owned state forest warden vehicles, when traveling in response to a fire alarm or emergency call;
4. Any ambulance, rescue, or life-saving vehicle designed or used for the principal purpose of supplying resuscitation or emergency relief where human life is endangered;
5. Any Department of Emergency Management vehicle or Office of Emergency Medical Services vehicle, when responding to an emergency call or operating in an emergency situation;
6. Any Department of Corrections vehicle designated by the Director of the Department of Corrections, when (i) responding to an emergency call at a correctional facility, (ii) participating in a drug-related investigation, (iii) pursuing escapees from a correctional facility, or (iv) responding to a request for assistance from a law-enforcement officer; and
7. Any vehicle authorized to be equipped with alternating, blinking, or flashing red or red and white secondary warning lights pursuant to § 46.2-1029.2.



Fair Oaks District Station
 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy
 Fairfax, Virginia 22033

Main Phone: 703-591-0966
Fax: 703-591-1032

Commander, Captain Ron Lantz
Ron.Lantz@fairfaxcounty.gov

Assistant Commander,
First Lieutenant John Naylor
John.Naylor@fairfaxcounty.gov

Crime Prevention Unit:
 703-352-2163

Fairfax County Crime Solvers:
 1-866-411-TIPS or 703-691-8888

Fairfax County Police:
 Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

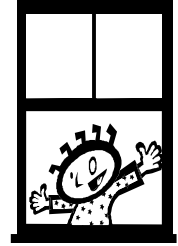
Citizen Reporting System:
 (for reports not requiring officer response)
 Call the non-emergency number at
 703-691-2131 or report online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov to public safety,
 police department.



A Fairfax County, Va., publication

Keep Our Children Window-Safe!

The Fairfax County Police Department has regrettably worked some cases where children have died or been injured after falling from windows. The warm weather is upon us and opening windows for some, much needed, fresh air is understandable. Children are curious and, toddlers especially, cannot grasp the concept of these consequences.



Here are some guidelines to keep in mind as you enjoy the outdoors while inside your home:

- Manipulate your windows so they open no more than four or six inches by placing an approved mechanism in the frame so not to obstruct the functionality of the frame.
- Avoid placing furniture near windows to prevent children from climbing.
- Do not rely on window screens to prevent a fall; their function is to keep bugs out, not children in.
- Educate children in keeping away from windows. Iterate and reiterate the house safety rule.

Have emergency escape plans and practice them with your family. Make arrangements for younger children as they will need assistance in safely getting out of the residence. Should you need assistance in devising a fire safety plan, or if you have questions or concerns, e-mail the Fair Oaks District Crime Prevention Officer, MPO Sophia Grinnan, at sophia.grinnan@fairfaxcounty.gov.



**POLICE-FIRE-RESCUE
 EMERGENCY**

9-1-1

NON-EMERGENCY

703-691-2131

FAIRFAX COUNTY

