

Dear Fairfax County Resident:

Join the Fairfax County Police Department in preventing crime in your neighborhood by becoming a member of the Neighborhood Watch program. Neighborhood Watch began in 1979 and has flourished steadily with hundreds of community based programs established throughout the county. The success of Neighborhood Watch is due to the cooperative involvement of police and citizens. By donating a small amount of time to observe and report suspicious activities in your neighborhood, we can band together to effectively reduce crime in our community.

The objective of Neighborhood Watch is to organize and train residents to be alert to potential crimes in their neighborhoods and keep watchful eyes on their neighbors' homes. Patrol of neighborhoods can be accomplished by citizens-band radio or cellular telephone equipped vehicle or foot patrol. If you, as a volunteer, observe and report any suspicious or unusual activity, the police can provide a prompt response and investigate any reported incident.

In addition, police officers will assist you in developing security measures for your own home. Receiving a free home security survey and taking property identification measures will help you prevent a burglar from choosing your home as a target. To show you are an active Neighborhood Watch participant, decals will be provided to be placed on windows in your home to deter potential criminals.

Thanks to many thousands of concerned and involved citizens in Fairfax County, our Neighborhood Watch pro-gram is a proven success. It is one of the largest such programs in the country and has received national and international recognition. It also is one of the main reasons the number of burglaries in Fairfax County declined more than sixty percent in a ten-year period, even though the county experienced significant residential growth during the same period of time.

We are anxious to have you join us in keeping Fairfax County one of the nation's safest large suburban communities. If you are interested, we will be happy to provide you with more information about Neighborhood Watch and how it can benefit you and your neighbors. Please ask us!

Crime Prevention Unit

Fairfax County Police Department

## **WITH THREE EASY STEPS YOU CAN BE PART OF NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!**

### **1 - CITIZEN PATROL**

Join with your neighbors in volunteering your eyes and your ears on a regular basis to watch your neighborhood and report anything suspicious to the Fairfax County Police Department. Thieves and vandals are likely to go elsewhere when they know Neighborhood Watch is "all eyes" for them! Contact the crime prevention officer at your district station for assistance in organizing and training your neighborhood.

### **2 - FREE HOME SECURITY INSPECTION**

A qualified, trained officer will inspect the locks, doors and windows of your home with you. Exterior lighting, landscaping, alarms and other factors affecting the protection of your home from burglary also will be reviewed. The officer will make recommendations for improving your home security. You can arrange for a free inspection, at your convenience, by calling the police district station nearest your home. (See back cover for the number)

### **3 - OPERATION IDENTIFICATION**

A Fairfax County Police officer will instruct you on how to properly mark your property so it can be identified and how to make an inventory of your valuables. Property identification discourages thieves and makes fencing of stolen property more difficult. When recovered stolen property can be identified, it can be used as evidence against the thief and also can be returned by the police to its owner.

## **“DO”S AND “DON’T”S TO PREVENT HOME BURGLARIES**

- DO make your home look like you're there. Lights turned on and off by timers give your home a "lived in look" when you're away.
- DO have good locks. A high quality, one-inch deadbolt lock on every outside door is a basic requirement.
- DON'T leave your home unlocked, even for a brief trip to the store or a visit to the neighbors across the street. Many homes have been burglarized in just such short periods of time.
- DON'T hide a key outside your home. Leave the extra key with a trusted neighbor or friend.
- DON'T put a name or address tag on your house or car keys. That's an open invitation to an unwelcome visitor should you ever lose your keys.
- DO plug a radio into a timer and set it to turn on when you are away. Set the radio to an all-talk station, leave the volume low, and give a would-be burglar the impression you're talking to someone. Light and noise are a burglar's worst enemies.
- DO have a free home security inspection and be an active participant in Neighborhood Watch. REMEMBER: A thief wants to take the path of *least* resistance.

# WATCH OUT!

Be alert for strangers in *your* neighborhood! So many burglaries could be stopped or prevented if only more people would report suspicious happenings.

If your doors or windows look as if they've been tampered with, notify the police. When away from your home, ask a neighbor to watch it and check it carefully for you.

Notify the police immediately of any suspicious people, trucks, cars or noises in the neighborhood. Don't worry about being a nuisance. Your police department will welcome your call and the opportunity to prevent a burglary or other crime. Remember, your belongings are yours; keeping them out of the hands of thieves is your responsibility.

Vandalism to homes, automobiles and other property is a major problem throughout Fairfax County. Help your neighbors and yourself by taking part in NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!

To report something or someone suspicious, use the Fairfax County Police Department non-emergency number, **703- 691- 2131**.

For events that are life-threatening or immediately damaging to property, call **911**.

GET involved or BE involved!



# CALL YOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR CRIME PREVENTION SERVICES

The Fairfax County Police Department offers a wide range of crime prevention services. They include steps you can take to avoid being the victim of a crime against property and person. The services are free and appointments may be made by calling the Police District Station nearest your home. The locations and telephone numbers of the District Stations are:

- Sully District Station..... 703-814-7000  
4900 Stonecroft Boulevard  
(Crime Prevention - 703-814-7018)
- Mount Vernon District Station.....703-360-8400  
2511 Parkers Lane  
(Crime Prevention - 703-360-8928)
- McLean District Station.....703-556-7750  
1437 Balls Hill Road  
(Crime Prevention - 703-734-0756)
- Mason District Station.....703-256-8035  
6507 Columbia Pike  
(Crime Prevention - 703-354-5889)
- Reston District Station.....703-478-0904  
12000 Bowman Towne Drive  
(Crime Prevention - 703-478-0799)
- Franconia District Station.....703-922-0889  
6121 Franconia Road  
(Crime Prevention - 703-922-8263)
- West Springfield District Station....703-644-7377  
6140 Rolling Road  
(Crime Prevention - 703-644-5026)
- Fair Oaks District Station.....703-591-0966  
12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway  
(Crime Prevention - 703-352-2163)

Police facilities are staffed 24 hours daily and may be called at any time to arrange an appointment for an inspection or to schedule presentations to larger groups on crime prevention and the Neighborhood Watch program.

(05/03)

# AN INTRODUCTION TO



by  
**neighbors who care**

# A COMMUNITY CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAM

**SPONSORED BY THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**



*The Fairfax County Police Department is accredited by the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission*