



McGruff Speaks



February 2009, Volume I

A Message from the CPC President

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been a member of the Yorkshire Village Neighborhood Watch for 20-some years. I have been our coordinator for many years. I am a graduate of the PWC Citizen Police Academy and the Citizen's Fire and Rescue Academy. I have been a member of the Crime Prevention board for the past four years. I am also involved with the Greater Manassas Volunteer Rescue Squad as their public affairs officer and also serve as president of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 43 Associate Lodge. Keeping busy is my motto.

As I put my thoughts together for the coming year, we are hoping that the Board of County Supervisors will not force the department to dissolve the Crime Prevention Unit. We need all Watch members to speak at the open forums during the board's budget meetings and let them know just how important Neighborhood Watches are, working with the Crime Prevention Unit. The unit gives us a contact within the department in order for us to do our job as Watch members and coordinators to hopefully avert and alert police to potential criminal activity. These meetings will be coming up soon, so please take some time to help us all if you can.

The CPC is gearing up for our 2nd annual golf tournament. Information has gone out to the Watches. Let us all make this a success. The board met in January to plan the new year. We are planning on participating in local parades during the year. Along with National Night Out on the Plaza, we will be promoting "Celebrate Safe Communities" this fall. Our public relations group will be gearing up for the Joe Gibbs affair in September. We will be having our annual chili cook-off in October to celebrate Crime Prevention month.

As you can see, we have lots planned for the coming year. We need our Watches to come to the regular open meetings and also to participate in the watch coordinators meetings that are held quarterly. We are planning on having speakers at these meetings in hope that this will increase our attendance. Your board is only 15 strong; we need your help to accomplish these goals. My phone line is always open, so if you have a question or concern you can give me a call at 703 368-8436 and I look forward to working with you as your president.

Theresa Thompson

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Tips for vacationers:

- If possible keep a car parked in your driveway.
- Have your home look "lived in" while you are away. This can be done with the use of timers on lights inside the home.
- Have a trusted neighbor/friend/relative pick up your mail and newspapers daily and remove all flyers, circulars, doorknob hangers and packages that may have been left at your door. Ask this person to conduct a periodic inspection of the perimeter of your home.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS

**Please Welcome
the County's Newest
Neighborhood Watch**

WEST
Bull Run East



**Welcome to our New
Watch Coordinator:**

WEST
Bull Run East - Fred Korich

Bull Run East: Located off Sudley Manor Drive on the West end of the county, this Watch is composed of about 40 homes.

BUSINESS WATCH NEWS



**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST CERTIFIED CRIME PREVENTION
BUSINESS**

EAST—WEST
Prince William Public Library System

WATCH COORDINATOR
Curtis Brenner

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY SAFETY TIPS

Remember:

- Keep all doors and windows locked, even if at home.
- Keep your front and rear porch lights on, use motion sensors.
- If you hear something, do not investigate. Go to a safe room in your home, call the police (911) and stay on the line.
- Be on the lookout for suspicious persons or activity during the day as well as during evening hours.

REPORT all suspicious persons or activity to the police.



GRAFFITI

Graffiti is a crime used by vandals to gain recognition. Quick removal is best. Steps to deal with graffiti are REPORT - RECORD - REMOVE.

The property owner is responsible for removing graffiti after the police have documented it.

If a property owner does not remove graffiti, County staff or its designees are allowed to enter private property to remove it.

Preventing and Reacting to Graffiti

Graffiti is a crime that hurts not just the property owner but the entire community.

Graffiti is a crime. It is destructive, unwanted, offensive, ugly and expensive to remove. Residents become uncomfortable and fearful in their own neighborhoods because they are the victims of the crime of vandalism. Graffiti invites other illegal acts - it tells criminals that crimes like burglary or assault may not be challenged. Property values fall and no one wants to purchase a home or business where graffiti scars the neighborhood. Retail businesses lose sales. It is a black eye to our community.

Government and law enforcement efforts alone will not solve the problem. Your eyes and your quick action are critical to the success of any anti-graffiti program. Community involvement, education and beautification efforts are key components to reducing and preventing graffiti.

If there is one thing you should know about graffiti, it is this: **Graffiti is used by vandals to gain recognition.** The longer the graffiti remains, the more recognition the criminals get. This is why the best action is to remove the graffiti as soon as possible after police document it.

WHY GRAFFITI SHOULD BE REMOVED IMMEDIATELY

(Graffiti has been altered to avoid giving the vandals further recognition.)



This graffiti was not removed as soon as it was discovered.



Resulting in a proliferation of the vandalism within days.

REPORT IT - RECORD IT - REMOVE IT!

REPORT IT

The process that Prince William County has adopted for dealing with graffiti is for anyone who spots it to **report it at the online [Graffiti Reporting Form](#)**. If you do not have access to a computer, please phone the information to [Neighborhood Services](#) at 703-792-7018 or to the [Clean Community Council](#) at 703-792-6272. Staff at either agency will complete the online form for you. If you own the property that was vandalized, call the Police non-emergency number at 703-792-6500 and after the crime is investigated, remove the graffiti.

RECORD IT

When you hit the "submit" button on the form, an e-mail is simultaneously sent to PWC Neighborhood Services and to the Prince William Clean Community Council who will check to ensure that the police will **record it** and investigate the crime. Neighborhood Services will notify the owner/occupant that it is their responsibility to remove or cover the graffiti. Notification is in the form of a violation notice posted prominently on the property and mailed to the owner and the occupant.

REMOVE IT

The property owner must **remove it**. Studies indicate that **quick removal is the best deterrent to graffiti**. Be persistent, too. Research has shown it takes an average of three times before vandals get discouraged.

"The longer the graffiti remains, the quicker it comes back."

Removal is easier if you know the correct treatments for different surfaces. "[Responding to Graffiti](#)" may help you pick the best solution. The Clean Community Council offers free graffiti removal product and discounts with pressure washing companies or paint suppliers.

If the property owner does not remove or cover the graffiti within seven days of the date of notification, the County or its designees (Clean Community Council volunteers) are allowed to enter the private property to remove or cover the graffiti. This will be done using the most cost-effective means available. While the utmost care will be taken in removing graffiti, please do not expect paint colors to match and know that power washing may alter surfaces.

Volunteers are needed to help remove graffiti. Prince William non-profit partner, the [Clean Community Council](#), is responsible for removing or covering graffiti through volunteer efforts. Volunteers who will remove or paint the graffiti or who can assist with administrative tasks are needed! The Council is actively soliciting business partners who will donate paint, painting supplies, power washers or free rentals. Wiping out graffiti is a neighborhood issue. We hope you will step forward to help maintain your community. Contact the Council at 703-792-6272.

PREVENTING AND REACTING TO GRAFFITI

Areas that are well-lit discourage graffiti. Avoid smooth surfaces which show graffiti better than those that are highly textured, like those covered in lattice or stone. Paint and coatings are available that make it easier to remove graffiti. The most expensive of these coatings actually causes spray paint to run off the surface! Plants can help prevent graffiti in two ways. 1) Plants with thorns or stickers or dense plants like Eastern Red Cedar make it difficult to get to a blank wall to vandalize it. 2) Vines or dense plantings can cover the blank wall making the graffiti hard to see. Our publication, "[Graffiti Prevention Strategies](#)," provides details.

If you witness someone in the act of vandalizing a property with graffiti, do not approach the criminals but instead call 911. As soon as you see graffiti, report it using the [online graffiti reporting form](#). Although the Police Department makes an official determination of whether or not the graffiti is gang-related, the publication "[Recognizing Tagger and Gang Graffiti](#)" can help you better understand the source of crimes in your neighborhood. A large percentage of graffiti is not gang related, a fact that should raise parents' awareness.

"[Responding to Graffiti](#)" contains information about removal techniques as well as a list of some of the companies offering discounted power washing to victims of graffiti.

Neighborhood groups are welcome to download and print copies for distribution or use parts or all of the publications in neighborhood newsletters.

Questions? Please contact Neighborhood Services at 703-792-7018.



Prince William County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit 2nd Annual Golf Tournament



When: June 5, 2009
Shotgun Start @ 8:00 AM
4 Person Team/Captain's Choice
Registration begins at 7:00 AM

Where: General's Ridge Golf Course
9701 Manassas Drive
Manassas Park, Virginia 20111
(703)335-0777

From Interstate 66, take Exit 44 (Prince William Parkway, Manassas, Dumfries). Continue on Prince William Parkway (VA-234). Take a left onto Prince William Parkway (VA-3000E) and continue onto Liberia Avenue. Turn right onto Signal Hill Road. Turn left onto Signal View Drive. Turn right onto Manassas Drive. Golf course is 1/2 mile on the right.
From Interstate 95, take Prince William Parkway (VA-3000W), take a right onto Liberia Avenue and then follow directions above.

Price: \$75.00 per person includes:
Green fees and carts
Range balls
Bag handling and scoring gratuities
Drink tickets for two free beverages
Continental breakfast
Lunch buffet awards banquet after the tournament
Golf towel and sleeve of balls
50/50 Drawing and Mulligans for purchase. Closest To The Pin/Longest Drive Contests

Make Check(s) to: Prince William Crime Prevention Council (PWCPC)
Mail to PWCPC: 8900 Freedom Center Blvd., Manassas, Virginia 20110
Attention: Crime Prevention Unit
Contact(s): Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270 or e-mail at sduncan@pwcgov.org

PLAYERS: Tournament is limited to the first 144 players to PAY in full. Attach names of players and contact info with your check.

Team Name (Optional): _____ Player 2: _____

Team Captain: _____ Player 3: _____

Contact #/E-mail: _____ Player 4: _____

HOLE SPONSORS: Hole sponsorships are \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. Please specify which sponsorship you have chosen below. Sponsor's should have their money and request form turned in no later than May 22, 2009 to ensure that your sign will be completed in time for the tournament.

Sponsorship Level: _____

Sponsors Name: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact #/E-mail: _____



Prince William Crime Prevention Council

8900 Freedom Center Blvd., Manassas, Va. 20110 703-792-7270
Tax ID 54-1314456 – 501 (C) (3)



January 2009

The Prince William County Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will be sponsoring our 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on June 5, 2009, at the General's Ridge Golf Course in Manassas Park, Virginia. We are asking for donations from businesses in the community to help make this event a success. We would be honored if you could help us in this worthwhile cause by selecting one of the options below:

Corporate Sponsor - Your \$1,000 sponsorship fee includes the following:

- Two free golfers
- Sponsorship flag at the sponsored hole. Flag will be presented to the sponsor in a shadow box at the end of the Tournament
- Sponsorship sign at the sponsored hole
- Sponsor's name on the golf towel provided to the golfers in the Tournament

Hole In One Sponsor - Your \$500 sponsorship fee includes the following:

- One Free Golfer
- Sponsorship flag at the sponsored hole. Flag will be presented to the sponsor at the end of the Tournament
- Hole in one package sponsorship sign at the sponsored hole

Patron Sponsor - Your \$250 sponsorship fee includes the following:

- Sponsorship sign at the sponsored hole

If you are interested in participating in any of the above options, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270 or e-mail, sduncan@pwcgov.org. Those interested should have their response in by May 22, 2009. If you are unable to sponsor a hole but would like to support our cause, a door prize is greatly appreciated. A flyer is attached with further player information should you have any employees who may have an interest in entering the tournament.

The Crime Prevention Council is a 501(c)(3), not for profit, charitable organization dedicated to promoting the common good and social welfare of the citizens of this County. We do that by stimulating interest and participation in the prevention of crime in cooperation with the County Police Department. Your donation will show your support of our efforts.

On behalf of our members, again thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Theresa Thompson, President
Prince William Crime Prevention Council

Prince William Crime Prevention Council

Tax ID 54-1314456 – 501 (C) (3) Contributions may be used as a tax deduction
8900 Freedom Center Blvd. Manassas Va. 20110, (703)792-7270

CPC Meeting Schedule / 2009

January 10 - CPC Board Planning Workshop, Western District Station, 10 a.m.

February 9 - Board Meeting, Potomac Conf. / McCoart, 7:30 p.m.

March 9 - General Meeting, Board Chambers / Development Services Bldg., 7:30 p.m.

April 13 - Board Meeting, Potomac Conf. / McCoart, 7:30 p.m.

May 11 - General Meeting, Board Chambers / McCoart, 7:30 p.m.

June 8 - Board Meeting Potomac Conf. / McCoart, 7:30 p.m.

July 13 - General Meeting, Board Chambers /McCoart, 7:30

August – NNO / Celebrate Safe Communities events / no meeting scheduled

September 14 - General Meeting, Board Chambers / McCoart, 7:30 p.m.

October 12 - Board Meeting, Western District Station, 7:30 p.m.

November 9 - CPC Awards, Western District Station, 7:30 p.m.

December 14 - Board Meeting, Potomac Conf. / McCoart, 7:30 p.m.

NNO / Celebrate Safe Communities

County Wide Event - Saturday, August 2, 2009
Nationally Recognized National Night Out – Tuesday, August 4, 2009

Quarterly Coordinators Meetings

Time and location to be set by Crime Prevention Officers

January/February

April/May

July/August

October/November

PWCPD Crime Prevention Unit Numbers & Assigned Areas

Lake Ridge Neighborhood Watches 703-792-7240	Officer Kim Sawicki, CCPS ksawicki@pwcgov.org
Woodbridge, Dumfries, Triangle/ Quantico Neighborhood Watches 703-792-4428	Officer Sandy Duncan sduncan@pwcgov.org
Dale City Neighborhood Watches 703-792-4412	Officer Marcia Whaley mwhaley@pwcgov.org
Manassas & Worship Watches 703-793-4446	Officer Melissa Garza mgarza@pwcgov.org
Gainesville Watches & Spanish-speaking Events 703-792-7232	Officer Alex Dominguez, CCPS adominguez@pwcgov.org
Business Watch & Fleet Watch 703-792-4676	John Nagel, CCPS Crime Prevention Specialist jnagel@pwcgov.org

Police Non-Emergency 703-792-6500

Emergency/ fire/ rescue/ police 911

Crime Prevention Unit :

Sgt. Liam Burke, CCPS 703-792-7267

wburke@pwcgov.org

Administrative Support: 703-792-7270

crimeprevention@pwcgov.org

Prince William Crime Prevention Council
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 Manassas, VA 20110-2220
 703-792-7270
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