



Special Edition

Parts of the County Experiencing a String of Burglaries Protect Yourself and Help the Police Solve these Crimes

Parts of Fairfax County are experiencing a string of burglaries and robberies that are thought to be linked to the same person or group. These incidents began in mid-August. As of this morning, there are now 87 related incidents. Of those, 57 are burglaries or attempted burglaries of occupied dwellings. The remaining 30 incidents are larcenies from vehicles, suspicious persons and suspicious noise complaints. The string appears to have started in the Fairfax Station area. It has since spread throughout the northern end of the county and most recently into the Fairfax/Annandale area.

On September 30th my office, with the help of the Sully District Police Station and the Oak Brook HOA, pulled together a community meeting to address the crimes, the police response and the concerns of residents. Safety tips and crime prevention methods were also communicated. I thought this information was important to share with you.

The burglaries are during the late night/early morning hours. The thief has predominantly taken cash and purses, leaving jewelry and other valuables behind. In most cases, the suspect seems to steal items left on the first floor of a home and then steals items from the vehicles parked outside. The suspect will break car windows to gain entry. In nearly every incident, the suspect has gained entry into the home through unlocked doors and windows; this includes garage doors that have been left open or unlocked.

Often times we forget that crime is out there and it can affect us. Fairfax County on the whole and the Springfield District in particular is a very safe place to live. Many of us do not think

twice about leaving our doors or garages unlocked and open when walking the dog, or even at night when we go to bed – I have even been guilty of doing this. But we must not forget that by doing these things, we leave ourselves open to opportunists and crime that is largely preventable by just remembering to follow a few good safety tips.

What can you do?

- Please review the tips below on how you can help protect your home. There is no guarantee that these steps will protect you 100% but they should help.
- Be vigilant in your neighborhood and immediately call police if you see any suspicious activity. If in doubt, make the call. If it's an emergency, dial 911; if not, call the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131. License plate numbers of suspicious vehicles are helpful but do not put yourself in danger.

We do still live in a very safe community. In fact, the West Springfield Police District has seen a 20% reduction in crime in the last year, but that does not mean that we should make crime any easier for the criminals. I urge all of you to follow these tips, and report any suspicious people or behavior. Police Chief Rohrer has made solving these burglaries the department's number one priority; however this string of burglaries will likely be solved only with the help of an alert citizen. With your help our Police Department will continue to make Fairfax County one of the best and safest places to live in the United States.

Link to Police Press Releases

The link below will take you to the Police Department's news releases to keep you up to date with the latest information including the burglaries we had last night.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/news-releases/>

View Crime Incidents in your Area

Visit this link and follow the instructions to search for crime incidents in your area -

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/gisapps/myneighborhood/#police>

Safety Tips

Here are a couple of tips that the Police gave our residents at the meeting:

Vehicle Security:

- Lock all vehicle doors.
- Remove valuables from vehicle.
- Absolutely never leave a GPS device affixed to the windshield when not in use, remove and store in console, glove box, or better yet, inside a home.
- Lock your vehicle even when parked in a garage.
- If your vehicle has an alarm, please activate when vehicle not in use.
- If you have an alarm service, i.e., On-Star, Lojack, please keep current on monthly fees (in-service).

- Be familiar with your vehicle information (VIN, Registration number, Insurance carrier) should an incident occur.
- Never leave your vehicle idling without someone in the vehicle.
- Never leave a spare key hidden within the vehicle.
- Never leave a key in the ignition (unattended).

Home security:

- Lock all doors and windows to the home when away (vacation, running errands, etc). This holds true at night when you are sleeping.
- If the home has an alarm system, please use it. Ensure it's registered with the county.
- If you have an attached garage, please close the door. If on vacation, deactivate the automatic garage door opener.
- Change your alarm code every once in a while.
- Lock all interior doors leading to the main house. This includes basement and garage doors.
- Use exterior lighting. Flood lights, motion detectors, lamp posts are essential to deterrence.
- Trim bushes around windows.
- **Do not leave valuables in plain view of a window, i.e. a purse sitting on a table next to a door or window.**
- If you "hide" a door key on the exterior of the home, be sure it's well hidden. It's better to give the key to a neighbor.
- If you have extension ladders in the tool shed, under a deck, etc., it's worth securing with a lock.
- Secure all tool sheds (easy source of tools to gain entry to your home).
- Be conscientious of open second story windows, decks, or other means criminals may use to climb to a second story window.
- Make sure deadbolts are installed on exterior doors (single key, double key).
- Consider enhanced locking devices for sliding windows (pins).
- Get to know your neighbors, your neighborhood, watch out for each other.

Police District Stations in the Springfield Magisterial District

Fair Oaks District Station

12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax, VA 22033

Phone number: 703-591-0966

Fax number: 703-591-1032

Sully District Station

4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

Phone number: 703-814-7000

Fax number: 703-814-7013

West Springfield District Station

6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152
Phone number: 703-644-7377
Fax number: 703-912-6851

What Police District Do I Live In?

To find out which Police District you reside in, please refer to the map here -
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/contact/maps/map-district-full.pdf>

The ***Herrity Report*** is a monthly publication from the Office of Supervisor Pat Herrity to keep citizens informed on the issues facing FairfaxCounty. Communication is important to Supervisor Herrity and he encourages your feedback on the items in the ***Report*** or other issues that concern you. Past issues of the ***Herrity Report*** can be found at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/herrity-report-newsletter.htm>. To sign up for the Herrity Report please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield>. If you no longer wish to receive the ***Herrity Report***, please send an e-mail to springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line or call us at 703-451-8873.