

May 2009

# THE SIREN NEWSLETTER



Fairfax County Police Department, McLean District Station, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, Virginia 22101  
703-556-7750 main 703-356-7208 fax  
Commander Steven Thompson  
Assistant Commander Jim Baumstark

## Community and Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Meeting Schedule

### McLean District Station (Community Room)

1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean VA

**June 11, 2009 at 7 p.m.**

**September 10, 2009 at 7 p.m.**

**December 10, 2009 at 7 p.m.**

## Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

CAC meets the third Thursday every month at 7 p.m. Meeting locations change and are announced at each meeting. For the next meeting location, please contact the station at 703-556-7750.

**July 2009– Summer break**

**August 2009– Summer break**

**September 17, 2009 location to be determined.**

**October 15, 2009 location to be determined.**

**November 19, 2009 location to be determined.**

**December 17, 2009 location to be determined.**

## Child Safety Seat Inspections

The McLean Station does child seat inspections the first two Saturdays of each month. First come first serve between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

You may also call the Fairfax County Police Child Seat Hotline at 703-280-0559 to find out locations of public child seat inspection events.



## THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COUNCIL: POLICE PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY

In 1979, the Fairfax County Police Department established a program to enhance its ability to communicate with and better serve the community. This program took the form of advisory groups, known as Citizens' Advisory Committees, comprised of citizens representing a cross section of the various neighborhoods of Fairfax County.

Each of the eight police stations formed a Citizens' Advisory Committee to work hand in hand with the station commander on issues confronting the district.

The committees meet on a monthly basis and meetings are open to the public.

### The purpose of the committees are to:

- ◆ Provide a forum for obtaining citizen input about the delivery of police services.
- ◆ Provide a formalized process that will facilitate citizen and community cooperation with the police.
- ◆ Identify specific and potential problem areas concerning police services.

In addition to the district committees, a Citizen Advisory Council was established. The council membership is drawn from each of the district committees and functions as a countywide advisory body to the Chief of Police. The council meets regularly with the Chief and the top staff of the police department, and addresses the interests and concerns of the entire county. The Citizens' Advisory Council promotes harmonious police—community relations and works to improve and enhance the police department's abilities to provide the best service to the citizens of Fairfax County. Both the Citizens' Advisory Committees and the Citizens' Advisory Council are active participants in the police department.

### Among their many activities:

- ◆ Provide advice and comment in the development of long range plans.
- ◆ Provide advice and comment during the police department's budget formulation and submission.
- ◆ Provide support for the development of Neighborhood Watch and other crime prevention programs.
- ◆ Monitor suspected incidents of racial, religious, or ethnic animosity occurring in Fairfax County and submit an annual report to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

The Citizens' Advisory Council responds to and advises the police department on virtually every significant policy matter affecting the delivery of police service in Fairfax County. The Council maintains a broad interest in the functioning of the Department and provides an important communications link to all citizens.

The Citizens' Advisory Council and the district Citizens' Advisory Committees are comprised of dedicated individuals who receive no compensation beyond the satisfaction of improving their communities and their police department. Their role is critical in maintaining citizen involvement in and support for the continued delivery of professional police service in Fairfax County.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

If you desire to become a member of the McLean District Citizen's Advisory Committee, contact the McLean Police District Station at 703-556-7750. You may also join us at any of our scheduled meetings posted in the gray box in the upper left of this page.

## A Message From the McLean Citizen Advisory Committee Chairman

Presently the McLean CAC has about 12 members who consistently attend our monthly meetings. Our meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at the McLean Police Station.

Usually there is a speaker who presents a topic of interest. Occasionally there are field trips such as to places such as the county jail or the courthouse. There are two social events, a Holiday Dinner in December and an Awards Dinner in April to which various members including the police chief are invited. You will also receive an update as to what is going on in our district by the Station Commander.

I hope you will give serious consideration to becoming a member of the McLean CAC or at least attend one of our monthly meetings to see first-hand whether you would be interested in joining. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me through the Crime Prevention Officers at the McLean District Station.

Bill Trapp  
Chairman, McLean CAC

## How You Can Help

Be on the alert.

Be suspicious of noises in the middle of the night.

Be suspicious of out-of-place vehicles in your garage.

Be suspicious of unusual activity.

Call the police right away to report what you see or hear.

703-691-2131 or 911

### Fairfax County Police Department Observe and Report Programs



The Fairfax County Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) will deliver important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency. Messages will be delivered to any e-mail accounts, cell phones, text pagers, satellite phones or wireless PDAs that you register.

When an incident or emergency occurs, the CEAN will be your connection to real-time updates, instructions on where to go, protective actions that need to be taken and other important information.

Sign up today at:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean)

Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management  
Tel: 703-324-2362 • TTY 711  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)  
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The Fairfax County CEAN will be used in conjunction with other public notification methods, such as cable Channel 16, the Fairfax County Government Web site ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)), the Fairfax County Government Emergency Information Line (703-817-7771, TTY 711) and area media, both radio and television.



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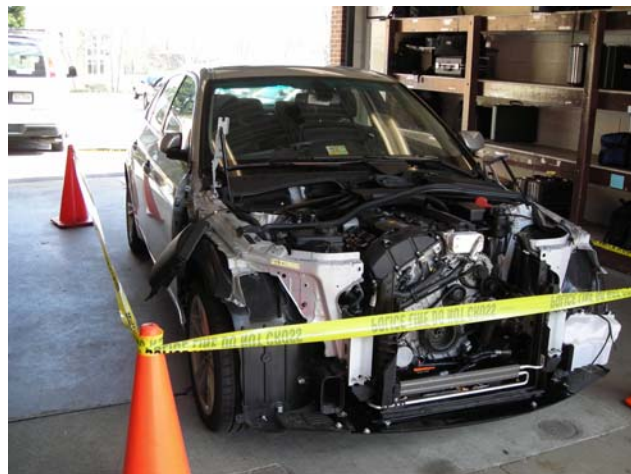
# To Catch a (Car Parts) Thief

by Walter Lazear, Fairfax County Volunteer in Police Service

Here's an ugly morning surprise: you walk down to your apartment or condo's secure garage and find that the entire front end of your car has been stripped clean. Yes, the sheet metal panels, bumper, hood, grille, radiator, tires, and other parts are just gone! How could this happen? You felt your car would be safe inside the "secure" garage and you think someone must have noticed this going on. It turns out that someone may have seen or heard something, but they didn't think it was important enough to bother reporting it to the police. They were wrong.

Parts thieves are making big money stealing car parts. They also remove air bags, side mirrors, trunk lids, and rear bumpers, but are not limited to just these items. The thieves favor Hondas, but may target all makes and models. They tend to strike in the early morning weekday hours when they generally have more time to disassemble cars. Entry gates requiring key fobs, security cameras, car alarms, and door locks have not slowed them down.

The police are busy trying to apprehend these thieves, but there is very little evidence. Trust your instincts...you know when something is odd or out-of-place. Hear something unusual in the night? Call the police. See an unusual car or truck in the garage as you come home late? Call the police. Observe some suspicious activity? Call the police. They want to be "bothered" by your phone calls. Each may seem minor, but these kinds of details when reported *in a timely manner* allow the police to investigate immediately.



Photographs by Master Police Officer Darryl Stokley. Two vehicles from a Tyson's Corner condominium parking garage felony vehicle parts theft case.

## Thieves Want Your GPS

by Walter Lazear, Fairfax County Volunteer in Police Service

It is very valuable to a driver to have an electronic map giving directions. Portable Global Positioning System (GPS) units are small and cost only a few hundred dollars. They mount with a suction cup to the windshield and are powered by the cigarette lighter plug. Who wouldn't want one? GPS unit thefts are a high volume business that can net \$100 per unit at a pawn shop. Sadly, victims often do not report the theft, which means if police ever recover it, the unit cannot be returned to its owner.

GPS units are targets of opportunity and without knowing it, you may be leaving clues that your GPS is there inside your car. The mark from the suction cup mount is a dead giveaway. The suction cup often leaves a ring on the windshield that's a beacon to thieves. Cleaning the mark with a moist towelette can leave a larger ring that is just as much a beacon. Leaving the power cord dangling from the car's lighter plug is another sign of a GPS unit. Any of these signs can lead to a search of your glove box or under your seats where your GPS unit is most likely hidden. The safest place for your GPS unit is away from the car.

The GPS unit is not all you lose. Anything else of value inside your car becomes a target of theft like your iPod, laptop, purse, wallet or valet key. (Some owner's manuals hold a valet key for your car that most people are unaware of.) Plus, the GPS can point the thief to your house and encourage further thievery. To avoid this, you can enter the address of a nearby bank or shopping center under "Home" or "Favorite" in your GPS instead of your true home address.

Thefts can happen at any time during the day, not just in the nighttime. Thieves look for any opportunity, so remember, don't make your car a target by leaving clues.

The police recover dozens of GPS units that have unknown owners. If yours is stolen, report it to the police and provide them with a serial number. This can increase your chances of getting your GPS unit back if police recover any.

### Tips to Keep Your Portable GPS

- Document the serial number and model number from your GPS unit.
  - Remove your GPS unit from the car, including the power cord.
  - Remove all mount traces from the windshield or dashboard.
  - Lock car doors and windows.
  - Park in a well-lit, busy area.
  - Report any theft to aid in recovery.
- 703-691-2131 or 911



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations call, Fairfax County Police, Commander of Personnel Division 703-246-7562, TTY 703-204-2264 or the Virginia Relay Center TTY 1-800-828-1120.

Please allow seven working days in advance of the event in order to make the necessary arrangements.