



# The Reston Reliance



Reston District Station

*“Providing Our Community a Solid Foundation Through Excellence”*

Mar/Apr 2009

## Police Request Assistance in Identifying Serial Bank Robber

Fairfax County Robbery Detectives are asking for the public’s help in identifying a serial bank robber. The most recent robbery occurred Monday, March 23, around 9:44 a.m. An employee of the United Bank, located at 13060-I Fair Lakes Boulevard, was working behind the counter when a man armed with a gun entered the bank, jumped the counter, and demanded money. The suspect locked the bank employees inside a vault, took an undisclosed amount of cash and fled on foot. The victim, a 35-year-old Falls Church man, was not injured.

The suspect was described as black, about 30 years old. He is approximately 5 feet 5 inches to 5 feet 6 inches tall and 180 pounds. He wore a dark-colored hoodie, a mask, jeans, and tennis shoes.

Robbery detectives believe this suspect is involved in several other robberies that have occurred since November 2008, most of which took place in Reston. Detectives ask anyone with information to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text



“TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES(274637), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

In addition to the cash reward offered by Crime Solvers, an additional reward (up to \$10,000) is being offered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

## Violent Crime Down in 2008

The number of violent crimes in Fairfax County decreased by nearly nine percent in 2008 compared to 2007. During that same period, property crimes increased by nearly eleven percent. These are among the findings in the end-of-year Uniform Crime Report as reported by the FBI. The index crimes included in that report are murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.



A breakdown of individual crimes in 2008 finds the number of robberies and motor vehicle thefts dropped; reported rape numbers were unchanged; homicides and aggravated assaults dropped; burglaries and larcenies increased compared to 2007. Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) decreased by 8.9 percent; property crimes (burglary, and larceny) largely fueled by larcenies, increased by 10.9 percent.

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## Closed by Arrest

### Update: Arrest Made for Homicide

A detention order was obtained for Elvin Rodriguez-Juarez, 17 years old at the time, days following the death of Zaida Rodriguez. On Tuesday, February 17 Elvin Rodriguez-Juarez was apprehended with the assistance of United States Marshals in Houston, Texas. He waived extradition in Texas and was returned to Fairfax County on Wednesday, February 25. Rodriguez-Juarez, now an adult, was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

### Police Investigate Homicide in Reston Area

Police responded to an unknown situation at 12056 Greywing Square in Reston to find a 42-year-old woman unresponsive in her home on Thursday, April 3 shortly after 11:30 p.m. Officers summoned Fairfax County Fire and Rescue and initiated CPR. The victim, Zaida Alvarez Rodriguez, was transported to the Reston Hospital Center where she was pronounced dead. Initially, the cause of death appears to be trauma to the upper body. Exact cause of death will be determined by an autopsy.

Detectives from the Criminal Investigation Bureau as well as Crime Scene investigators responded to the scene.

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY CRIME SOLVERS

**Cash Rewards** for information leading to the arrest of criminals. You need not give your name.

**1 (866) 411-TIPS (8477)**



#### **CALLERS MAY REMAIN ANONYMOUS**

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

E-Mail your tip at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org)

Proud Member of National Capital Area Crime Solvers

## Is Your Car a Target?

Is your car a target for thieves? Take this easy quiz to find out:

1. Do you leave your car doors unlocked?
2. Do you leave valuables in your car?
3. Do you leave your GPS cradle on the windshield?
4. Do you neglect to clean the suction cup mark off of the windshield after you remove your GPS unit and its cradle?
5. Do you know the make, model and serial number of your electronic items?

If you answered yes to any of the first four questions and no to question 5, then you have made your car a target for thieves. The Reston District Station has seen an increase in thefts from cars, especially GPS units. Other valuables have also been stolen, such as iPods, laptop computers, and purses. The police have seen an increase of cars targeted because they were left unlocked. Since the first of this year, at least half of the reports received at the Reston District Station involved unlocked cars. However, locking your car is not enough. Many cars get their windows smashed out because valuables are left in plain sight, GPS cradles are left on the windshield or the suction cup marks aren't cleaned off of the windshield.

Don't make it easy for thieves. Remember to lock your car doors everywhere you go, even in your driveway. Do not leave valuables in your car. Remove them and take them with you, even your GPS unit. Take the GPS cradle off of the windshield and clean off the suction cup mark. Another option is to use a friction mount on the dashboard instead of the window suction cup mount.

If your car is broken into, help the police help you to recover your stolen property by writing down the make, model, serial number, and color of all of your electronic items. Without this information, it is almost impossible for the police to match recovered stolen property with its owner and to prosecute cases in court.

To Subscribe to **The Reston Reliance** newsletter:

1. Contact the Crime Prevention Office at (703) 478-0799.
2. Join the mailing list by contacting MPO Chip Cogan at [Harry.Cogan@Fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Harry.Cogan@Fairfaxcounty.gov).
3. Sign up at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter) to receive notifications to download current newsletters.

## Prevention Tips

- ☑ Do not leave valuables in your car.
- ☑ Lock car doors at all times and close the windows.
- ☑ Remove your GPS unit, including its cradle.
- ☑ Clean the area of the windshield marked by the suction cup of the portable GPS unit.
- ☑ If items must be left in your car, keep them hidden from view or place them in the trunk.
- ☑ When possible, park in a well-lit area.

## Around the County

### Milestone for Camelot Neighborhood Watch Program

The Camelot Neighborhood Watch has been patrolling the Camelot neighborhood for 30 years and celebrated this extraordinary milestone on Tuesday, March 17. The festivities began at 7:30 p.m. at Camelot Elementary School, located at 8100 Guinevere Drive in Annandale. Camelot Neighborhood Watch is the oldest, continuously active neighborhood crime prevention organization in the United States. Throughout the years, Camelot's program and their volunteers have been honored by the White House, the Congress of the United States, and the Virginia General Assembly. They have also attracted the attention of local and national media.

The Neighborhood Watch was started in 1979 by Paul Cevey. He was the coordinator for 12 years, followed by Dave Shoner, who oversaw the program for 11 years. Frank Vajda is the current coordinator and continues the hard work and dedication that all Camelot volunteers demonstrate.

"The Camelot Neighborhood Watch continues to set the standard for the community neighborhood watches," said Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross. "I am proud that Mason District has a strong foundation of neighborhood watches."

## Phishing All Year Round

No matter what season it is, no matter where in the world you are, it can happen to anyone. Phishing involves Internet fraudsters who send spam or pop-up messages to lure personal information (credit card numbers, bank account information, Social Security number, passwords or other sensitive information) from unsuspecting victims. An example of such may be an e-mail from your bank or Internet provider asking for personal or financial information to "verify or confirm" their records. More than likely these e-mails were sent by a computer savvy individual. This person can create an e-mail or message very similar to one you may receive from that company, including logos and phone numbers.

Some helpful hints to help you from getting *hooked* by Phishers:

- If you get an e-mail or pop-up message that asks for personal or financial information, do not reply. And don't click on the link in the message either.
- Use anti-virus software and a firewall and keep them up-to-date.
- Don't e-mail personal or financial information.
- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them.
- Be cautious about opening any attachment or downloading any files from e-mails received by strange addresses or companies.
- Forward spam that is phishing for information to [spam@uce.gov](mailto:spam@uce.gov).



**Keep Kids Safe!**  
**Don't Provide Alcohol to Youth Under the Age of 21!**

The Countywide Initiative to Reduce Underage Drinking is endorsed by Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County Government

Call 703-691-2131, TTY 711 to report underage drinking parties to the police.

Contact 571-423-4270 for further information about the initiative.

Funds for this ad provided by a Drug Free Community Support Program Grant awarded to the Unified Coalition of Fairfax County from the Office of National Drug Control Policy in partnership with SAMHSA.

## What You Should Know About Solicitors and Peddlers

### Definitions – As defined by Chapter 31 of the Fairfax County Code:

**Solicit**: to operate from a temporary stand, display or similar facility, or to travel door-to-door, house-to-house, street-to-street, or from place to place taking or attempting to take orders for sale of goods, wares or merchandise, subscriptions, personal property of any nature whatsoever for future delivery, or for services to be furnished or performed in the future, whether or not responding to appointments prearranged by telephone, telegraph, correspondence or other means of communication. To hire lease, use or occupy any building or structure, lodging house, apartment, shop or any other place within the County for the sole purpose of exhibiting samples and taking orders for future delivery.

**Peddle**: to operate from a temporary stand, display or similar facility or to travel from house-to-house, door-to-door, street-to-street or from place to place, carrying, conveying, or transporting goods, wares, or merchandise for the purpose of offering and exposing the same for sale, whether or not responding to appointments by telephone, telegraph, correspondence or other means of communication; provided, that to solicit orders and as a separate transaction, make deliveries to purchasers as a part of the scheme or design to evade the provisions of this Section shall be deemed peddling.

#### Two types of solicitors:

1. Door-to-door or from a temporary stand
2. Charitable donations for a civic or charitable organization.
3. Churches, schools, hospitals and organizations which are registered with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services of the Commonwealth of Virginia (VDACS) are **excluded** from the local licensing requirements. To verify that they are registered with VDACS go to [http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/consumers/cgi-bin/char\\_search.cgi](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/consumers/cgi-bin/char_search.cgi). Non-profit organizations should be carrying a letter or some sort of dated ID stating who they are and the organization's non-profit status.

### Rules and Regulations. Solicitors:

1. May not solicit in an area that is clearly posted "No Peddlers or Solicitors."
2. May operate only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.
3. Must present solicitor's license to any customer who asks to see it.
4. Must provide his/her name, name of the company, and the nature of the solicitation to any customer when asked.
5. Must be truthful when stating the purpose of the solicitation.
6. Must provide a detailed, written receipt for any goods sold when asked by the customer.
7. Must leave when asked.

(See **SOLICITORS** on page 5)

#### FAIRFAX COUNTY SOLICITOR AND PEDDLER LICENSES

##### The license will display the following:

##### **FRONT**

- ★ Picture of the solicitor/peddler
- ★ Name
- ★ Address
- ★ Height & Weight
- ★ Eye & Hair color
- ★ Date of birth
- ★ Driver's license number
- ★ Laws peddlers and solicitors must follow
- ★ Signature of the Director, Consumer Protection Division

##### **BACK**

- ★ Type of Goods
- ★ Solicitor's license number
- ★ Employer
- ★ Telephone number
- ★ Employer's address
- ★ Issue and Expiration dates
- ★ Thumb prints

**\*\*Solicitor/Peddler licenses are good for one year only\*\***

(SOLICITORS from page 4)

## Vehicle Identification Regulations (as defined by section 31-2-3 of the Fairfax County Code):

- Every vehicle used by a peddler or solicitor in the conduct of his business shall have conspicuously displayed thereon, in letters and numerals not less than three inches high, the name and business address of the person, firm or corporation using such vehicle
- Every peddler or solicitor conducting business from a temporary stand shall have conspicuously displayed a sign identifying the business by name and address, with letters and numerals not less than three inches high with a total dimension not greater than twelve square feet

## Fairfax County School Regulations for Elementary, Middle, and High School Solicitation

1. Elementary school students are prohibited from participating in door-to-door solicitations
2. Middle and high school students may participate in door-to-door solicitations. When soliciting funds, the student must:
  - a. Announce the name of the school he or she attends.
  - b. Explain how the funds will be used.
  - c. Explain what percentage of the money earned will remain with the school or school activity.

Each middle and high school is limited to **TWO school wide**, school-sponsored, door-to-door solicitations per year. However, this **DOES NOT** restrict the number of door-to-door solicitations by individual school clubs; the number of such solicitations is controlled by the principal of that school.

## What to do...

- If a solicitor knocks at your door, ask for their solicitor/peddler license. If they do not have one, inform them that they must have a license to solicit in Fair-

fax County.

- Ask them to leave and contact the police department at (703) 691-2131.
- If it is a middle or high School student, ask to see their School ID.
- If you are interested in the product being sold, ask the person to leave the information, and then check with the school or business to verify that they have a program running.
- DO NOT give any money unless you know they are representing a valid business or are definitely a student at the local middle or high school.
- If the school is from outside Fairfax County, BE CAUTIOUS.

## Share the Road, Be Courteous to Others

Officers from the Reston District Station conducted a pedestrian enforcement campaign from March 21, 2009, through March 29. in order to prevent injuries and deaths due to pedestrian and bicycle crashes.



The highest concentration of crashes has occurred along Reston Parkway between Sunrise Valley Drive and Wiehle Avenue, and Centreville Road between Coppermine Drive and Parcher Avenue. Throughout the campaign, message boards were placed in high visibility locations near the trails intersecting with major roadways.

Officers hope to educate the public through awareness, education and enforcement on Virginia laws and Fairfax County ordinances which govern their safety.

### Pedestrian and bicyclist safety tips include:

- Cross the street at marked crosswalks and intersections
- Before crossing, look left, right, then left again
- Use pedestrian pushbuttons
- Begin crossing the street on the "Walk" signal
- Stay visible after dark and in bad weather
- Watch out for trucks and buses backing out of parking spaces and driveways

Pedestrian safety is a high priority of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. For information about the Fairfax County Pedestrian Task Force, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/pedestrian.htm).



# Reston Business Crime Watch

## The Ugly Crime of Graffiti

By Officer Katy Fernbacher

With the weather change and daylight savings time, graffiti tends to pop up everywhere. Graffiti is ugly, a nuisance and a crime. It is classified as a destruction of property crime. Which can be a felony or a misdemeanor depending on the dollar amount of the damaged caused to the property. Any damage over \$1,000 makes the destruction a felony.

Graffiti typically is found on large flat surfaces and out of sight of everyday traffic. The rear of businesses or buildings, walkways and tunnels are all prime targets for graffiti, but this does not mean that you only see graffiti in these areas. The graffiti “artists” use spray paint to leave their message for the public to see. The message can be anything from the name of their band to what the “artist” dislikes to gang affiliation. (Not all graffiti is gang-related.) “Taggers” use graffiti to express themselves in public. Their work is usually very colorful, large and elaborate. Gang graffiti usually has a very simple message and can contain the names of the members of a certain group or just mark what the gang is calling their territory.

Whether or not you know the origin of the graffiti, it is important to report the crime. By making a police report, a case number is assigned to the destruction. If a suspect is identified, a charge can be placed for every case of destruction. Prosecution of the offender is a very important aspect of the crime of graffiti. Your business spends valuable time and money dealing with the damage caused by the graf-

fiti “artists.” If a suspect is identified and charged with the crime, a judge can order restitution, probation or even jail time for the offender. Without prosecution, no one is held accountable for the damage.

Removing the graffiti is probably the most important thing the business community can do about the problem. The “artists” are marking their territory and removing the graffiti, you are saying that they are not welcome. The “artists” don’t want to get caught and the removal of the “artwork” says that someone is paying attention to the property. You are showing pride in your business and your community.

In Fairfax County, graffiti reports that may have gang affiliation are reviewed by the station gang coordinator. The gang intelligence unit also reviews these cases. Graffiti is a wealth of knowledge for the police. It can tell the police what groups are in the area, which group is feuding with another group and can link crimes together. The police will usually take pictures of the graffiti for record keeping purposes and for evidence for court proceedings that may follow.

You can call the non-emergency dispatch number for the Fairfax County Police Department at 703-691-2131 to report any graffiti located on your property. If you have questions about graffiti or business-related crime prevention, please contact PFC Katy Fernbacher at 703-478-0799 or [katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov)

graffiti  
NOT  
WELCOME  
here!

## CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Would you like to become more involved in the Reston District? You can, by attending the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. The CAC was established in 1979 to enhance the police department's ability to communicate with and better serve the community.



A CAC meeting can involve presentations about any aspect of the police department, such as the helicopter division, identity theft, the K-9 division or child safety. In addition, you will find out what is going on in your community and will have the opportunity to talk to the commander of the Reston District Station and express your concerns directly.

The formal meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. and runs about 1½ hours. (The Neighborhood Watch meeting precedes it at 7 p.m.). The meetings are normally held the third Thursday of each month in the community room of the Reston District Station at 12000 Bowman Towne Drive.

There are no dues or membership requirements and dress is casual. Late arrival/early departure is OK. This is time well spent and we hope to see you there. For more information, contact the Crime Prevention Office at (703) 478-0799. Everyone is welcome to join us!

## Crime Solvers Launches New Website!

Fairfax County Crime Solvers has launched its own website. It was designed to aid the program and the police department. There are pages to advertise wanted fugitives, cold cases, suspects caught in the act and more at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org).

## Community Crime Statistics Information Line

Residents interested in receiving a report based on the frequency of calls dispatched to a specific area of interest over the previous 12-month period are now able to do so. Call (703) 246-7932 and you will be directed to leave your name and phone number, fax, e-mail or mailing address. Requests take approximately 5-7 days.

## Fairfax Police Department Programs

**Incident Mapping:** The public can now research and access current information about incidents reported to Fairfax County Police. The information provided in this site reflects actual calls for police service received by the Department of Public Safety Communications (9-1-1 call center) and entered into the computer-aided dispatch system. Generally incident information is available for viewing within 48 hours of the time an incident is reported. To access the Incident Mapping application, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police> and click on Incident Mapping under the "quick links" menu.

Please note that all users must read and acknowledge a disclaimer before accessing data from this site.

## Reston Police Station Services

For more information regarding the following services, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at (703) 478-0799 or e-mail the Crime Prevention Officers Katy Fernbacher at [katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov) or Chip Cogan at [Harry.Cogan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Harry.Cogan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Reston Police Newsletter:** Please visit the link below to access the Fairfax County Police newsletter service center to sign up to receive The Reston Reliance: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter>.

**Home/Business Security Assessments:** If you are concerned about the safety and security of your home or business, call us to schedule a free security assessment. We will make recommendations and offer suggestions to better safeguard your home or business.

**Neighborhood Watch Training:** If your community is interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch training, please call us and we will schedule a time to come to your community to give the training.

**Child Safety Seat Inspections:** Inspections are scheduled through voicemail by calling (703) 478-0904 x5208. If you are interested in this service, please allow enough time before your due date to have your child safety seat inspected. Inspections are BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

**Reston Business Crime Watch:** This e-mail alert system is designed to give businesses up-to-date and specific crime information pertaining to the type or location of the business.



# Community Resources

Cut out and hang near your phone for easy reference

POLICE—Non-Emergency.....	703-691-2131
<b>EMERGENCY</b> .....	<b>911</b>
Reston District Police Station.....	703-478-0904
Alcohol and Drug Services (Youth Services).....	703-961-1080
Center for Multicultural Human Services.....	703-533-3302
CrisisLink Crisis Hotline (Suicide, trauma, life crises).....	703-527-4077
Community Services Board (Prevention services).....	703-324-7000
Emergency Mental Health Services (24 hour).....	703-573-5679
Department of Family Services.....	703-324-7938
Fairfax County Dept. of Community and Recreation Services—Teen Services.....	703-324-8336
Fairfax County Gang Coordinator.....	703-246-2396
Fairfax County Health Dept.....	703-246-2411
Fairfax Co. Health Dept.—Tattoo Removal Program.....	703-246-7182
Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.....	703-246-2495
Fairfax County Police Gang Prevention Coordinator.....	703-246-7844
Fairfax County Public Schools—After school programs.....	703-246-6740
Northern Virginia Gang Task Force—Tip Line.....	1-866-664-2647
Youth Employment (NVWIB job hunt)	703-368-0775



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County Police Department at (703) 246-7562 and TTY (703) 204-2264.



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