



The Reston Reliance

Reston District Station

"Providing Our Community a Solid Foundation Through Excellence"

Summer 2010

National Night Out a Success in the Reston District

Highlights in this issue:

- A Series of Burglaries are being investigated
- Operation Safe Passage
- Buckle Up and Child Restraint Laws
- A Special Thank You

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By PFC Katy Fernbacher,
Crime Prevention Specialist

On August 3, 2010, Fairfax County celebrated National Night Out (NNO). The Reston District Station hosted nine events in communities and two lights on campaigns for the evening.

McGruff, the Crime Dog, was busy visiting seven of the Reston events. He was the official pool-side referee for the Kingston Chase NNO celebration and Reston's first NNO swim event. McGruff contemplated climbing the rock wall at the Reflection Townhomes Community event but decided against it when he was offered some cotton candy instead. He helped hand out school supplies donated by the Reston Target, NNO's national sponsor, with Target employees volunteering their time at the Southgate Community Center.

Police officers and Auxiliary officers from the Reston District also visited the events in the communities. NNO is a rare event where police officers are encouraged to hang out in communities and spend time with the citizens that live in those communities for no other purpose but to chat and be social.

NNO is a national campaign for communities to show that crime is not welcome in their neighborhood. This event happens every year on the first Tuesday of August. All communities are invited to show that crime is not welcome by hosting a pot luck, having a pool party, having a cook out, or even just having all the neighbors turn on their exterior lighting for the evening.



Under Investigation

UPDATE – Additional Incidents Linked to Same Suspect; Crime Solvers Continues to Seek Help from the Public

Police have linked an additional 21 incidents they believe have been committed by the same suspect responsible for a series of burglaries and larcenies across the county. Thirteen additional burglaries and at least 13 other related incidents such as larcenies from vehicles, suspicious persons and suspicious noises were reported to police in the last week and detectives believe the same suspect is responsible. These numbers continue to change on a daily basis as reports are investigated.

Two handguns are among the items stolen from vehicles so residents should be extremely cautious. Police stress that the suspect makes entry through unlocked doors and windows so locking up may be the best deterrent.

Police also warn residents:

- Do not leave items of value or garage door openers inside unattended vehicles and ensure your vehicle is locked.
- When returning home, try not to leave purses, cash or keys near an entryway.
- Promote safety by using the exterior lights on your home as well. If you notice suspicious persons or activity, call the non-emergency police number (703-691-2131) and report it.

Police Investigate Series of Burglaries and Larcenies; Crime Solvers Asks Public for Help

Fairfax County Police are investigating a series of burglaries and larcenies that have occurred throughout the northern section of the county and Crime Solvers is asking for the public's help in identifying and locating the suspect. Detectives have linked at least 44 reported incidents that they believe were committed by the same suspect. Of those, there are 24 burglaries, 13 larcenies from vehicles and two unlawful entries. These incidents began on Tuesday, August 24 in the Clifton area. Since then, the suspect has targeted homes throughout the Sully, Fair Oaks, Reston and McLean Police Districts.

As always, report any suspicious activity to the Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131

The suspect mainly enters occupied homes through unlocked or open doors and windows. He steals cash, purses and property from inside. The purses are usually discarded outside in close proximity to the victims' homes with only cash missing. He enters vehicles that are unlocked or smashes a window and takes property from inside that is in plain view. All of these incidents have occurred during the overnight hours.

Detectives believe this suspect is a man, 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 10 inches tall and 150 to 175 pounds.

Residents are urged to ensure their cars are locked while unattended and that no personal items of value are left inside or in plain view. In addition, make sure doors and windows are closed and locked at home; this includes garage doors. When returning home, try not to leave purses, wallets or keys near an entryway. Promote safety by using the exterior lights on your home as well. If you notice suspicious persons or activity, call the non-emergency police number (703-691-2131) and report it.

Anyone with information about these incidents or the suspect is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637). A \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Find us on Facebook.

For current information about crime in Fairfax County, visit the Fairfax County Police Department website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police.

**FIGHTING CRIME
ONE CALL
AT A TIME**



1-866-411-TIPS (8477)

CRIME SOLVERS	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-right: 10px;"> ✓ ✓ ✓ </div> <div> REPORT A CRIME REMAIN ANONYMOUS RECEIVE A REWARD </div> </div>
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To subscribe to the Reston Reliance newsletter, sign up at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter to receive notifications to download current newsletters.

Reston District Hot Sheet From the Crime Analysis Unit

Arrest Made-Burglary of Home:

An arrest has been made in a burglary case that occurred on April 21, 2010, in the 11000 block of Becontree Lake Drive. The suspect entered the home and took a laptop. Reston Detectives received information as to where the suspect was staying, responded and took him into custody. He has been charged with burglary.

Arrest Made-Burglary of Office Building:

An arrest has been made in a burglary case that occurred on May 7, 2010. A subject was seen entering an office building in the 1800 block of Explorer Street then exiting with documents. He was taken into custody and charged with drunk in public and unlawful entry.

Juvenile Suspect named in Several Graffiti Cases:

A juvenile has been named in several non-gang graffiti cases in the 2400 block of Centreville Road in Reston.

Arrest Made-Larceny from Auto/Assault:

Reston officers made an arrest in a case where a weapon was stolen from a vehicle while it was parked in the 12000 block of Sunset Hills Road. Information was received that the subject was in possession of the firearm and they responded to this location and took him into custody. The subject is also facing assault and larceny charges from other incidents.

Robbery:

On Saturday, June 5 around 12:09 p.m., a 26-year-old female hotel clerk and a 27-year-old female were robbed. A man entered the Homestead Studio Suites, located at 12190 Sunset Hills Road, displayed a gun and demanded money. Both victims turned over cash and personal property. The suspect fled on foot in an unknown direction. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as white, around 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet 2 inches tall, medium build and wearing blue jeans and black T-shirt.

Arrest Made-Larceny-CVS:

Two arrests have been made in several larceny cases in CVS stores around the Reston District.

Arrest Made in Burglary Case:

Arrests have been made in a burglary that occurred on May 29th.

Suspicious fires around Runnymede Park:

Since February, there have been six fires set in the area of Walnut Branch Road and Creekbend Drive. Residents are asked to report any type of suspicious activity to police immediately.

Secure your Valuables!

Residents are reminded to remove all valuables from their vehicles and secure all belongings before leaving their vehicles for the night. As always, report any suspicious activity to the police departments non-emergency number: 703-691-2131.



Rise of Stolen Autos:

Recently, Reston has seen spikes in thefts of motorcycles. Residents are urged to report any type of suspicious activity to the non-emergency number.

License Plate Thefts

License plate thefts continue to be an issue in the Reston District. Residents are reminded to report any suspicious activity to the non-emergency number.



Bicycle Larcenies:

Bicycle thefts are on the rise. Remember to secure your bicycles that are stored in outdoor areas.

Crime Prevention Starts With YOU!

- Lock your doors, even when you are home
- Secure your bicycle with a lock everywhere you leave it, even at home
- Record and keep all serial numbers from your electronic equipment
- Report all suspicious activity to the police, call the non-emergency number 703-691-2131

Operation Safe Passage

The Reston District Station conducted a back to school traffic safety campaign coined Operation "SAFE PASSAGE" from September 20 to October 1, 2010. The target areas of this initiative were school crossings, violators passing school buses, and other moving violations impacting the safety of our students. There was an increase of enforcement efforts during the A.M. and P.M. school hours.



Back-to-School Means Paying Attention to Kids and Traffic Laws

The goal this school year is to make everyone on the road safe. Be patient and courteous when driving.

- Do not let stress and frustration get the best of you while driving.
- Be patient and courteous.
- Do not drive when angry, overtired or upset.
- Allow extra time to get to your destination.
- When possible, change your schedule to avoid congestion.
- Give other drivers the benefit of the doubt - all drivers make mistakes.
- Avoid all conflict, even if you are right.

And let's remember those school buses with passengers that are precious cargo. So, when you're behind a school bus, take a deep breath, be patient, and appreciate that the children are being transported safely to school or child care settings.

A Special Thank You for the Flower Lady

The Reston District Station would like to say thank you to Kim Scott or as she is referred to around the station, the flower lady. Ms. Scott is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee and a graduate of the Parcher Avenue Citizens Police Academy. After attending several CAC meetings, Ms. Scott asked if she could plant some flowers because our station needed some "TLC." She volunteered her time to plant the purple wave petunias and some volunteer plants from her own home in attempt to make the small hill in the back of the station look better for the officers who have to look at the hill everyday. The purple petunias wave at the officers everyday and smell wonderful. Officers frequently comment on how nice the flowers turned out and how nice the flower lady is for doing all the work involved in making the flowers thrive.



Buckle Up and Child Restraint Laws & Guidelines for Child Safety Seats

VIRGINIA'S PASSENGER SAFETY BELT LAW
(Code of Virginia Article 12 - Section 46-2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Belt Law:

- Children **age 8 through age 17 (until age 18)** must be belted correctly in vehicle safety belts, in vehicles manufactured after January 1, 1968. Exemptions are taxicabs, school buses, executive sedans and limousines.
- This safety belt law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child correctly buckled up.

A \$25 civil penalty fine will be imposed.

VIRGINIA'S PICKUP TRUCK LAW
(Code of Virginia Section 46.2 - 1156.1)

- No person under age 16 shall be transported in the rear cargo area of a pickup truck.

There are exemptions for certain parades and farming operations

VIRGINIA'S CHILD RESTRAINT DEVICE LAW
(Code of Virginia Article 13 - Section 46.2)

The major requirements of Virginia's Child Safety Seat Law:

- Child restraint devices are required for children through the **age of seven (until 8th birthday)**. Safety seats must be properly used and approved by Department of Transportation standards. **There is no height or weight requirement associated with this law.** The Virginia law is based solely on age.

- Rear-facing child restraint devices must be placed in the back seat of a vehicle. In the event the vehicle does not have a back seat, the child restraint device may be placed in the front passenger seat only if the vehicle is either not equipped with a passenger side airbag or the passenger side airbag has been deactivated.
- Children can no longer ride unrestrained in the rear cargo area of vehicles.
- The law applies to anyone (i.e. parents, grandparents, babysitters, friends) who provides transportation for a child in any vehicle manufactured after January 1, 1968. Public transportation (taxis, buses), regulation school buses, and farm vehicles are exempted.
- The child restraint law is primary enforcement -- no other violation need be committed prior to ticketing for failure to have a child in an approved seat.
- A \$50 civil penalty fine is imposed for failure to have a child in a child restraint device. Any person found guilty a second or subsequent time, on different dates, will be fined up to \$500. An additional \$20 civil penalty fine is assessed when persons transporting a child exempted from this law due to medical reasons do not carry a written statement of the exemption. All fines collected go into a special fund to purchase safety seats for low-income families.
- There are assistance programs for low-income residents who cannot afford a safety seat. Contact Virginia Department of Health, Division of Injury and Violence Prevention at 1-800-732-8333 for more information.

Two kinds of child safety seats for babies:

1. Small, lightweight "infant-only" child safety seats are designed for rear-facing only
Baby's head must be at least one inch below the top of the seat. The label on the seat give the upper weight.



Convertible safety seats may be turned around to face the front when the baby is over 1 year old (C). It is recommended that a child ride rear-facing as long as she/he fits. Follow the seat manufacturer's instructions.



2. Larger "convertible" seats can be used rear-facing (B) from about 5 to 35 pounds. Some older models only go up to 20-22 pounds rear-facing. Always check the label and instructions for the rear-facing weight limit. If a baby under 1 year old grows too tall or too heavy for an infant-only seat, a convertible seat with a higher rear-facing weight limit (over 22 pounds) is recommended.



A convertible seat with a 5-point harness works best for a newborn baby. Seats with a padded over-head shield do not fit small babies properly. The shield comes up too high and may make proper adjustment of the harness difficult.

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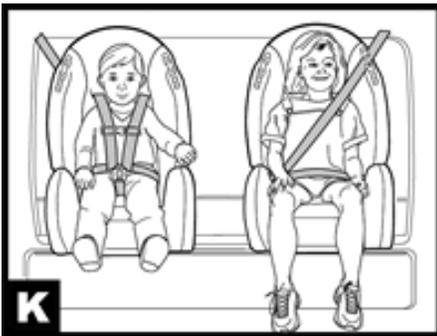
Buckle Up and Child Restraint Laws & Child Safety Seat Guidelines continued



This convertible seat (a seat that can be used rear-facing or forward-facing) may face the front for a child OVER 1 year old.



All children who have outgrown child safety seats should be properly restrained in booster seats until they are at least 8 years old.



This combination child seat/booster is used with the harness (left) for younger children and with the vehicle's lap and shoulder belt (right) for older children. Remove the harness before using with the lap and shoulder belt. Check the manufacturer's instructions for weight limits.

Seat belts are designed for adults. To be able to fit in a seat belt, a child must:

- Be tall enough to sit without slouching,
- Keep his/her back against the vehicle seat back,
- Keep his/her knees completely bent over the edge of the seat,
- Keep his/her feet flat on the floor, and
- Be able to stay comfortably seated this way.



This information was taken from <http://www.nhtsa.gov/people/injury/childps/newtips/index.htm>

Some helpful things to remember:

- Everybody needs to be strapped into a child safety seat, booster seat, or safety belt!
- There must be one safety belt for each person. Buckling two people, even children, into one belt could injure both.
- People who are not buckled up can be thrown from the car or around inside the car, and be seriously or fatally injured.
- Never hold a child on your lap! You could crush him/her in a crash, or the child may be torn from your arms.
- Never ride in the cargo area of a station wagon, van, or pickup! Anyone riding in the cargo area could be seriously or fatally injured!
- New child safety seats and booster seats come with registration cards. Be sure to register your new seat so you will be notified if there is a recall. If you don't have a card, call the safety seat manufacturer.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

The CAC meeting hosts presentations by various aspects of the police department. For example: the helicopter division, identity theft, the canine division and 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 and other officers of the Reston District Station and express your concerns directly.

Please see the Reston District Station webpage for more information about the CAC meeting schedule for the 2010-2011 meetings at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/reston.

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—join us!

Did you know that you can find answers to many questions about the Fairfax County Police Department on the web?

You can visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police to find everything from the latest news releases to crime prevention tips and traffic safety information. You will also find webpages for all eight district stations, links to sign up for police alerts and Crime Solvers information.

You can also find the Fairfax County Police Department on Facebook. Crime Solvers also has a Facebook page.

The Reston District Station has partnered with the Reston Association to make some crime prevention videos that can be found on YouTube. You can find these videos by searching Reston Association on YouTube or visiting the Reston Association website at www.reston.org. You will find the videos under the Explore Reston tab and click on RA on YouTube.

RESTON DISTRICT 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 Officer Katy Fernbacher at katy.fernbacher@fairfaxcounty.gov

Reston District Police Station Web Page: You will find links to on-line reporting, neighborhood news, station information, the Reston Reliance and other information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/reston>

Reston Reliance Newsletter: If you would like to sign up to receive the Reston Reliance, please visit the Fairfax County Police webpage at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter>

Home/Business Security Assessments: Are you concerned about the safety and security of your home or business? If so, 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.

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.

To learn more about our police volunteer programs, just visit the Fairfax County Police website (search by keyword: VIPS, APO, Citizens Police Academy); or go directly to:

VIPS: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/vips.htm>

APO: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/jobs/auxiliarypoliceofficer.htm>

Citizens Police Academy: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/citizens-police-academy.htm>

Community Resources

POLICE—Non-Emergency.....	703-691-2131
EMERGENCY	911
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 Area Agency on Aging.....	703-324-7948
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 County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.....	703-246-2495
Fairfax County Public Schools—After school programs.....	703-246-6740
Northern Virginia Gang Task Force—Tip Line.....	1-866-664-2647



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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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