

## Good Neighbor Hints

While parties or other gatherings are often the source of complaints, there are other things responsible residents should do to maintain friendly relations with the neighbors.

If you have pets, be sure to observe the laws pertaining to leashed animals and the clean up and disposal of animal waste. For information regarding animal regulations, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/animal-control-services.htm>. To report an incident, call the police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.

It is also important to ensure that the property where you live is properly and neatly maintained. Information about Fairfax County property maintenance requirements can be obtained by calling the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300 or online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/property>.

Understand and comply with the vehicle licensing and registration requirements. New residents, military personnel, out-of-state students and owners of trucks, trailers or specialty vehicles are often confused by the tax and registration requirements. Information about licensing requirements can be obtained online at [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/cartax\\_motorvehicles.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/cartax_motorvehicles.htm).

For additional information or assistance, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at the West Springfield District Station:  
6140 Rolling Road  
Springfield, Virginia 22152  
703-644-5026  
Email: [wspcapt@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:wspcapt@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**WEST SPRINGFIELD DISTRICT**

**Guide to Being a  
Good Neighbor**



The diversity of Fairfax County residents and pride in one's community found among neighbors makes this County one of the most desirable Counties to live in the United States.

Fairfax County is home to longtime residents, senior citizens, retirees, families with young children, young professionals and college students. The interaction among such a diverse group can occasionally result in misunderstandings, most of which can be resolved without police intervention.

The purpose of this guide is to promote responsible behavior and good neighborly manners that enhance the quality of life for everyone in the community. Since many problems arise from parties or other large gatherings and events, particular attention is given to tips on how to manage those issues.

**Emergency: 9-1-1**

**Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131**

**Crime Solvers: 703-691-8888 or 866-411-TIPS**

## Common Problems & Simple Solutions...

Communication and cooperation are key ingredients to a friendly, harmonious neighborhood. Make it a point to meet your neighbors and get to know each other, so that small problems can be resolved before they become big ones. Let your neighbors know if you're planning any event involving more than a few people.

Often, simply sharing your plans and following through on your commitments may result in more tolerance of the minor disturbances and inconveniences that sometimes occur.

These are some of the most common neighborhood complaints received by the police department and some recommended solutions for good neighbors:

**Noise** – The County's noise ordinance prohibits any noise that can be heard beyond your property. Initial police response for a violation usually results in a warning; a second violation could result in an arrest.

**Solution:** if you intend to have a band, outdoor music or other loud entertainment advise your neighbors of the time it will begin and end, then abide by it. Reasonable limits on the volume and duration of the noise will minimize the likelihood of a complaint. If the police do visit about a noise complaint, your immediate and continued compliance with the noise ordinance is essential. Be aware that noise is more noticeable at night, so even casual outdoor conversation can disturb neighbors.

**Littering** – It is a violation of law to deposit any type of trash upon a public roadway or another person's property. Littering in the neighborhood during parties often results in a request for police response.

**Solution:** If hosting an event, place sufficient trash containers in and around your home. Inform your neighbors that you will collect any trash in your neighborhood that may have resulted from your party, and do so within 24 hours.

## ... to Avoid Neighborhood Problems!

***Parking*** – It is unlawful to block and/or park within 10 feet of a driveway, to park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, to park within 20 feet of an intersection, or to park against the flow of traffic. Where there are no curbs, vehicles must be parked completely off the paved roadway. These violations are among the most frequent complaints made to the police.

**Solution:** Be aware of parking restrictions in your neighborhood and always park legally. If hosting an event, advise your guests where legal parking is available. Ask your neighbors to contact you in the event of any parking problems. If you live in a Residential Parking Permit area, make sure guest vehicles display one of your guest permits.

***Public Consumption of Alcohol*** – Persons who consume alcohol while wandering about the neighborhood or while sitting in a vehicle are subject to arrest for drinking in public or for being drunk in public.

**Solution:** Limit any consumption of alcoholic beverages to within your home or restrict it to an area beyond the view of the general public, such as your backyard. If you choose to drink, do so responsibly and always choose a designated driver.

***Other Alcohol Violations*** – It is a criminal violation for anyone under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcoholic beverages. It is unlawful for an adult to permit the possession or consumption of alcohol by underage persons. It is unlawful to sell alcohol at a party or to charge admission to a party when that fee covers the consumption of alcohol.

**Solution:** Ensure no one under the age of 21 is consuming alcoholic beverages, or providing alcohol to underage guests on your property. If uninvited guests show up at a party, or you become uncomfortable with the activities going on, be proactive in regaining control. Don't hesitate to call for police assistance since you can be held legally responsible if you fail to act.