

## Mount Vernon Police Ledger



FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Mount Vernon Police Ledger

## The Crime Triangle and Crime Prevention

## Opportunity Reduction... An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure.

by MPO Greg Kottemann

It seems to go in phases, and moves from community to community. Yep, I am talking about thefts of items from automobiles. I also see trends in these reports over and over again. Residents are leaving their vehicles unlocked with valuable items inside or even locked (a good sign), but with high dollar items in plain view. These items usually consist of laptop computers, cell phones, I-pods, wallets, purses and GPS devices. These items are too tempting for the thief looking for a quick score, and evidently, worth increasing the risk of getting caught by having to break the vehicles window to get to these prizes.

Most of these events are happening in the wee hours of the morning (midnight - 4AM) with little chance of the thieves being observed by residents or a prowling police car. Therefore, I re-embark on my mission to spread the word

about opportunity reduction. Opportunity reduction is the community's most efficient tool to affect the scourge of property crime in and around their homes. The best part is it's easy and doesn't cost a dime. Creat-



reduction is one of many facets involved in preventing crime in the community, but remembering to perform these simple tasks will go farther than you think.

Remember, if you leave your doors unlocked, and low hanging fruit for the thieves, you are enticing criminals to your neighborhood. This hurts everyone in the community and sets it up to be visited by thieves time and time again.

Opportunity reduction, when implemented and supported through the formation of good security habits and community buy in, will greatly impact the criminal's ability and desire to operate in our neighborhoods. Just getting our friends and neighbors to make a concerted effort to lock

their doors and secure their valuables will go a long way to making Mount Vernon an even safer place to live.

So lock um up Mount Vernon and don't leave those lures in your cars.

ing a habit of locking our doors, car and home, and remembering it is worth the extra trip back to the car to make sure no tempting valuables are left inside. It is really that simple. Obviously opportunity



***Lock Your Vehicles  
&  
Remove All Property  
Help us reduce the opportunity  
for our communities to be victimized.  
Prevention Works!***

Fairfax County is committed to nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities. Reasonable accommodations will be provided upon request. Call 703-691-2131, TTY 703-204-2664 A Fairfax County, Va., publication

