

RICHMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER FALL 2011

CURRENT CRIME TRENDS

The city has been faced with an increase in property crimes. This is very typical for this time of year with the colder weather and holidays approaching. These crimes can include thefts from vehicles/buildings, breaking and entering, and robbery. It is our job as citizens to try to prevent these crimes whenever possible and to call the police when anything in our neighborhood looks suspicious.

For specific crimes in your area check your Sector Newsletter found at:

<http://www.richmondgov.com/Police/Newsletters.aspx>

Or the daily crime report on the City's website:

<http://www.richmondgov.com/Police/>

PROPERTY CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

Lights are the easiest and most effective crime prevention tool

- Leave lights on all night around the exterior of your home
- Park and walk in well-lit areas

Always lock your doors and windows

- Use security doors and dead bolts
- Turn on security systems each time you leave your home
- When fans and A/C units are not in use, take them out of the windows

Never leave any item in plain view

- Even a small amount of pocket change can be enticing to a criminal
- Keep all valuable items in your vehicle in your trunk
- Criminals will be watching when you bring Christmas presents home from the store, carry them in dark bags if possible.

Never leave your "Christmas present" boxes out on the corner for trash/recycle pick up

- These electronic/appliance boxes will tell the criminals what new valuable items you have
- Break down the boxes and put them in the trash can
- Keep an inventory of all your valuables (pictures and serial numbers)

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH UPDATES

There have been concerns about remaining damage and debris left after the recent storms.

- If you have a concern about city services please visit:
 - <http://www.richmondgov.com/Mayor/ReportPriorityIssue.aspx>
 - This link allows you to report these issues to the City

Many groups have concerns with recruiting new members to their NW groups. Here are a few suggestions for revitalizing your group and recruiting new members.

Organize Community Events

- Yard sales
- Community cleanups
- Community gardens
- Block parties
- Newsletters

Designate Committees

- Senior checks
- Walking patrols
- Motor patrols

Regular NW Meetings

- Invite a different speaker to each meeting and choose topics that will boost attendance

GREETINGS

It is my honor to be your new Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself.

I have been with the Richmond Police Department for more than seven years and spent the first seven working in First Precinct Patrol. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Radford University in 2003 and my Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2007.

During my time with the department I have become very involved with the community. I find great joy in mentoring the youths of our city and try to find every opportunity to do so. I have newly been assigned to the Community Care Unit; this is part of the Community, Youth and Intervention Division. In this role I am the new liaison Officer for Richmond City's Neighborhood Watch.

I look forward to starting some new Neighborhood Watch programs in the city as well as rejuvenating some of the less active groups. Please update me on any upcoming meetings or events your group is having and feel free to contact me with any questions or comments. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Sincerely,



Officer Sarah Powell
RPD- Community Care Unit
Office: 804-646-0407 or Email: Sarah.Powell@richmondgov.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Emergency Police/Fire/EMS	911
Police Non-Emergency	646-5100
First Precinct	646-3602
Second Precinct	646-8092
Third Precinct	646-1412
Forth Precinct	646-4105
Police Information	646-0400
Public Services	646-3000