



Chesterfield County Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Emergency	911	Crime Prevention Programs	318-8699
Non-Emergency	748-1251	Business Security Assessments	318-8690
NW Coordinator	706-2662	Home Security Assessments	318-8693

Holiday Shopping Safety

The holiday shopping season is here and Black Friday is next week. Please remember to be aware of your surroundings and follow these simple safety tips:

- If possible, shop during daylight hours.
- Avoid wearing excessive or expensive jewelry.
- Choose parking spaces in well-lit, high-traffic areas and as close to entrances as possible.
- Do not leave valuables visible inside your car. Purses, laptops, cameras, GPS units, portable music players and cash attract attention and tempt thieves.
- Always lock your car, even if you are leaving for only a short period of time. Make sure all windows, including the sunroof, are completely closed.
- Stay alert. Pay attention to your surroundings. Be aware of those around you and do not allow yourself to be distracted. Offenders may try various methods of distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Never leave your purse or wallet unattended in a shopping cart.
- Avoid carrying multiple credit cards and large amounts of cash.
- Conceal your credit card numbers and personal identification numbers (PIN).
- Walk facing traffic so you can see approaching cars.
- Have keys in your hand as you approach your vehicle.
- Check the back seat of your car before entering.
- Never place packages or your purse on top of your vehicle.
- Immediately report suspicious persons and activities to police.



Online Shopping Tips

Know your merchant.

Confirm the online seller's physical address and phone number before you buy. It comes in handy if you have questions or problems later.

Know what you're buying.

- Read the seller's description of the product and even though it can be painful, the fine print.
- Check out the terms and conditions. Can you return the item for a refund if you're not satisfied? Who pays the shipping costs? Is there a restocking fee? Print and save records of your online transactions, including all emails to and from the seller.
- Buy gift cards from sources you know and trust. Avoid buying cards from any online auction sites because they could be fake.



Be stingy with your personal information.

- Don't give out your credit card numbers or other financial information in exchange for an offer of the newest tech toy, a free gift card, a seasonal job or a holiday vacation rental.
- Don't email your financial information. Email isn't a secure way to transmit numbers—your credit card, your checking account or your Social Security number.
- Don't click on a link in an email. Legitimate companies don't ask for your financial information via email or pop-up message.

Check the privacy policy.

It may be long, but it can give important information: for example, what personal information the website collects, why and how the operators are going to use it. If you can't find the privacy policy—or understand it—consider taking your business elsewhere, and letting the site know what you think.

Pay by credit or charge card.

Under federal law, you have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and withhold payment temporarily while the creditor is investigating. And if your card is used without your authorization, your liability generally ends at the first \$50.

Monitor your financial accounts.

Read your statements regularly, making sure they reflect the charges you authorized.

For more information, please visit Federal Trade Commission's website: www.ftc.gov

Great Success at Shred-It Event



On Oct. 6, a “Shred-It” event took place at West Chester Commons Shopping Center. This event was sponsored by the Central Virginia Crime Prevention Association in conjunction with the Chesterfield County Police Department. The Shred-It Company donated its time and equipment. Over 300 people dropped off 12,000 pounds of documents to be shredded. Please remember to shred all important papers when you are finished with them so that you can prevent identity theft.

Welcome New Neighborhood Watches

Let's welcome the following new Neighborhood Watches:

Windsor Forest

