



# 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

## Chesterfield County Ranks 6th in NNO 2012



The National Association of Town Watch has released its award winners for participation in the 2012 National Night Out. Chesterfield County ranked 6th nationally and first in Virginia among localities with populations of 300,000 or more. Chesterfield County was ranked 7th nationally in 2011.

National Night Out was founded in 1984 to strengthen neighborhood spirit, foster partnerships between communities and law enforcement, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, and to heighten awareness of crime and drug prevention programs. In 2012, more than 37 million people participated in National Night Out activities. For more information about National Night Out, visit <http://www.natw.org/>.

Rank	Jurisdiction
1	Minneapolis, MN
2	San Antonio, TX
3	Houston / Harris County, TX
4	Austin, TX
5	Arlington, TX
<b>6</b>	<b>Chesterfield County, VA</b>
7	Los Angeles, CA
8	Columbus, OH
9	Collin County, TX
10	Henrico County, VA
11	Morris County, NJ
12	Santa Ana, CA
13	Placer County, CA

## New Support Services Division Commander

Capt. Jason Zaccarine became the new Support Services Division Commander in mid November. Capt. Zaccarine has over 18 years with the department and prior to this assignment, he was the Inspector of the Office of Professional Standards (Internal Affairs). His background also includes various supervisory assignments in the Criminal Investigations Division, Uniform Operations as well as the Police Training Academy.



## Home Security



There are numerous measures homeowners can take to help reduce opportunity crime and secure their property. Additionally, the Chesterfield County Police Department offers free home security assessments to homeowners. The assessment takes approximately an hour and homeowners are provided with written security recommendations. To schedule an assessment contact the Crime Prevention Unit at (804) 318-8699.

## Outdoor Security

- As a burglary deterrent, post an alarm sign at the end of the driveway (at the road). Include alarm decals on all exterior doors as well. Even if the home is not alarmed, the impression of security can be enough to ward off would-be offenders. However, for monitoring and security purposes, the police department always encourages installation of audible intrusion detection systems.
- Keep yard free of items such as large stones, lawn tools and ladders that offenders can use as burglary tools.
- Keep shrubs trimmed below three-feet in height and raise tree canopies at least six-feet above grade to facilitate visibility and help deny concealment opportunities.
- Utilize motion-activated flood lights on all sides of the home to help detect nighttime activity.
- Use photocell sensors to illuminate all exterior doors, including those on freestanding garages, from dusk to dawn.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted friend or neighbor and not outdoors.
- Always keep your car doors locked and never leave valuables such as cash, a purse, GPS unit, iPad, camera or laptop computer in your vehicle.
- Make sure your property is well-maintained and your house has a "lived in" appearance at all times.

## Exterior Doors

- Keep exterior doors locked via deadbolt locks at all times.
- Install deadbolt locks with one-inch throw bolts on all exterior doors as well as doors separating garages from home interiors.
- Secure deadbolt strike plates with three-inch screws for increased penetration resistance.
- Secure sliding glass doors by placing a dowel rod in the lower track.
- Consider security film for large expanses of glass or for glass adjacent to door locks in order to increase penetration resistance. See examples at [www.llumar.com](http://www.llumar.com) and [www.vista-films.com](http://www.vista-films.com).
- Place wide-angle peepholes in all solid panel exterior doors.



## Windows

- Keep all windows closed and latched when away from home and draw first floor curtains/blinds at night and when away.
- Install window pins on all ground floor double hung wood windows. Window pinning kits are available at hardware stores.
- Secure window air conditioning units from the inside by attaching a bar to the unit that extends past both sides of the window frame to prevent the units from being removed to gain entry.



## Security When Away From Home

- Before you leave, verify that all windows and doors are closed and locked (via deadbolt lock).
- Use at least two timers (one per floor in a two-story home or in different areas of a single-story home) that turn lights on and off in a logical sequence to provide the appearance of occupancy.
- Leave a loud radio on, tuned to talk radio, to increase the illusion of occupancy.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a trusted neighbor pick them up.
- Keep a neighbor's vehicle intermittently parked in your driveway to bolster the appearance that someone is home.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to tend to your yard and watch the house when you are away.
- Don't leave descriptive answering machine messages that reveal your plans to be away. Do not post your plans to be away on social media sites.
- Schedule a vacation "keep check" with the police department to have a patrol unit check in on your home while you are out of town. For more details and to request your keep check, call (804) 748-1258.