



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

Gun Safety Guide for Parents

In a home where guns are kept, a child's degree of safety rests squarely on the parents. Parents who accept the responsibility to learn, practice and teach gun safety rules ensure their child's safety to a much greater extent than those who do not. Parental responsibility does not end, however, when the child leaves the home.



▪ Talking with your child about gun safety

There is no right age to talk with your child about gun safety. A good time to introduce the subject is the first time he or she shows an interest in firearms, even toy pistols or rifles. Talking openly and honestly about gun safety with your child is usually more effective than just ordering him or her to "stay out of the gun closet," and leaving it at that. Such statements may just stimulate a child's natural curiosity to investigate further.

▪ Toy guns vs. real guns

It is also advisable, particularly with very young children, to discuss gun use on television as opposed to gun use in real life. Firearms are often handled carelessly in movies and on TV. Additionally, children see TV and movie characters shot and "killed" with well-documented frequency. When a young child sees that same actor appear in another movie or TV show, confusion between entertainment and real life may result. It may be a mistake to assume that your child knows the difference between being "killed" on TV and in reality. If your child has toy guns, you may want to use them to demonstrate safe gun handling and to explain how they differ from genuine firearms. Even though an unsupervised child should not have access to a gun, there should be no chance that he or she could mistake a real gun for a toy.

▪ What should you teach your child about gun safety?

If you have decided that your child is not ready to be trained in gun handling and use, explain that he or she must not touch a gun in your home, unless you are present, and have given permission. If your child finds a gun outside the home, teach him or her to follow the instructions of NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSAFE™ Program: Stop; Don't Touch; Leave the Area; Tell an Adult. The initial steps of "Stop" and "Don't Touch" are the most important. To counter the natural impulse to touch a gun, it is imperative that you impress these safety steps upon your child. In today's society, where adult supervision is not always possible, the direction to "Leave the Area" is also essential. Under some circumstances, "area" may be understood to be a room, if your child cannot physically leave the apartment or house. "Tell an Adult" emphasizes that children should seek a trustworthy adult—neighbor, relative or teacher—if a parent or guardian is not available. For more information please visit www.nra.org/safety/eddie or call 800-241-0752.



Chesterfield Empowering Neighborhoods Forum

Chesterfield County’s Sustain Our Communities Committee (SOCC) will present its second Empowering Neighborhoods Forum on Saturday, March 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center. This program will provide residents with beneficial information about property maintenance, code enforcement and crime prevention. This can be a great kick off for the revitalization of your community. Chesterfield’s new Home Modernization Guide will be unveiled at this event, as well. This event is free and open to the public. Register for the event at www.chesterfieldcommunities.com. Please contact Latisha Jenkins at 804-748-1065 or JenkinsL@chesterfield.gov for more information.

Police Take Back 820 Pounds of Medication



The Chesterfield County Police Department, in partnership with SAFE, Chesterfield's substance abuse prevention coalition, helped residents safely dispose of expired and unneeded prescription and over-the-counter medications.

Police hosted a Medication Take-Back event at the Support Services Division building on Saturday, Feb. 9. During the four-hour event, police and volunteers collected 820 pounds of unused, unwanted and potentially harmful prescription

medications. A total of 247 residents dropped off medications.

Animal Shelter’s Facebook Page

The Chesterfield County Animal Control Unit launched a Facebook page in January 2013. Through the use of this social media forum, the Animal Control Unit will provide:

- Information about functions, such as rabies clinics and adoption events.
- Pets of the Week
- Educational material



Please visit our Facebook page “Chesterfield County, VA Animal Control & Shelter.”

Date	Event	Description	Time	Place
3/9/13	Empowering Neighborhoods Forum	Obtain information about valuable tools, property maintenance, code enforcement, and crime prevention.	0830-1230	Eanes-Pittman Public Safety Training Center 6610 Public Safety Way, Chesterfield
3/23/13	Medication Take-Back	Safely dispose of unused or expired medications in partnership with SAFE and Bon Secours St. Francis Watkins Ctr.	1000-1400	Bon Secours St. Francis Watkins Centre 13710 St. Francis Blvd., Midlothian