

Calverton Current



Newsletter of the Calverton Citizen's Association ♦ Silver Spring, MD ♦ Beltsville, MD
www.calvertoncitizens.org

May, 2017

CCA BOARD MESSAGE

STRANGER AT THE DOOR – WHAT DO I DO??

This safety scenario is provided by Captain Susan Smith, PG District VI. This demonstration concerning a very a public safety concern was done last week. It is in your best interest to not even open the door or to talk to the person through the door. Just don't answer the door. Please read this story that Captain Smith has provided and take precautions when someone comes to your door.

Yesterday, WJLA Channel 7 News teamed up with our Regional Investigations Division, and our Media Relations Division to do an experiment in a PGPD community to expose citizens' vulnerabilities to cunning criminals. This experiment was originally supposed to occur in Clinton, an area that had experienced a small string of these types of home invasions burglaries. But due to yesterday's plane crash, they moved it the experiment to Beltsville. [They wanted to move it as far away from the crash, since traffic was awful.]

Here's what they did:

An actor knocked on random residences to find someone home. He was driving a non-descript truck, and wore a safety vest, hard hat, and ID card that was purposefully turned toward his chest so it couldn't be read. The actor told the homeowner that he was with the 'Water Department' and needed to check something inside their home. In 70% of cases, the homeowners admitted this person entrance without asking any questions or verifying any identification. One person told the actor he could go into her home unattended so the homeowner could do some gardening outside. The actor and news team never entered homes. As soon as permission was granted, they pointed out what was really happening. WJLA is planning to air the experiment in late April.

Please remind everyone to be curious and bold enough to ask questions, and to say 'no' with conviction, as appropriate. It is extremely rare that a utility company would have to enter your home. You can always make the person wait outside while you call the company to verify. And don't use the company number provided by the person at the door!

In Clinton, they had a few cases where two men approached a house, dressed as workmen. The victims let the men inside, and while one person distracted the victim, the other ran upstairs to steal jewelry and any other valuables that could be quickly grabbed. The County also had a

couple of banks robbed by a suspect wearing a hard hat and safety vest!

I wanted you all to be aware, and share this information with your friends, family, and neighbors. Thank you, and stay safe!

CCA BOARD MEETING MINUTES—April 6, 2017

The minutes from the CCA Board Meeting on April 6 and May 4 will be published in the June newsletter.

CRIME REPORT

- March 23 – Theft from auto, 12900 Block Craiglawn Court
- March 29 –Auto burglary (nothing taken), 3000 Block Gazebo Court
- March 31 – Theft from auto, 11700 Beltsville Drive
- April 8 – Theft from auto, 3900 Block Lakehouse Road
- April 8 – Vandalism, 3000 Block Fallston Avenue
- April 10 – Theft, 3900 Block Calverton Boulevard
- April 21 – Theft, 11700 Beltsville Drive
- April 24 – Theft, 11700 Beltsville Drive

There have been safety tips from PG Police in the newsletter. Here are some tips from Montgomery County Police District 3.

The Third District is seeing an increase in theft from autos. Often these thefts occur from unlocked vehicles.

Please remember to keep your vehicles locked at all times. Please also remember to not leave any valuables in your vehicle. Often these thefts go unreported, please report all thefts from vehicles via the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000, this will assist us in apprehending the perpetrators. Do not try to stop the thief or thieves if you see them in action. Call 911 immediately.

Again, always remember the tips below.

1. Do not leave your vehicle warming up while you are in the house.
2. Do not leave your car unlocked, even if you are going back into the house for a few minutes. Make sure you keep clicking your car fab until the horn honks. Then you will know that your car is locked.



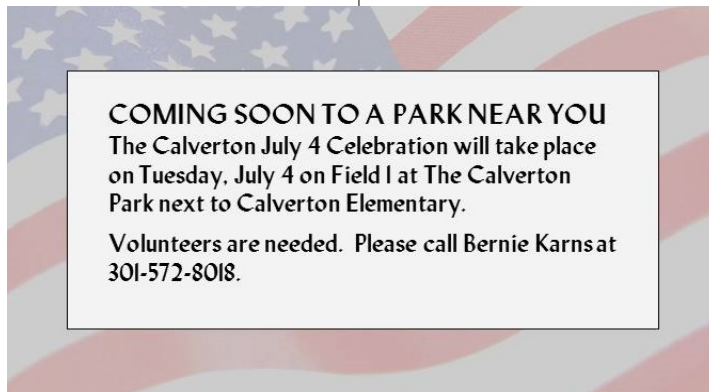
3. Remember, thieves look for easy ways to get into a house. An easy way to get into your house is through an open window or door. Do not leave windows and doors open during the night even if it a beautiful warm night. You are giving someone that easy opportunity to get into your house.

CAR THEFTS ARE RAMPANT

When fueling your vehicles, keep your keys in your hand, secure valuables on your person or lock your car doors. Below is an excerpt from an incident that occurred off Cherry Hill Road:

The victim stated that she was at the gas pump and began to walk away from her 1998 Silver Honda CRV, when someone told her that the suspect (Unknown) stole items out of her car. The victim ran back to her vehicle to see if anything was taken when she realized that her wallet, which contained 120 dollars cash, 3 credit cards, and her driver's license was gone off the front passenger seat. The suspect opened the passenger side front door, which was unlocked, grabbed something and then fled into the apartment complex.

Around the County, there have been cases where a second car will pull alongside the person who is fueling up. A passenger in the suspect car hunches down out of sight, and opens passenger side car door undetected. They're good at stealing purses and wallets this way.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- ◆ Beginning on February 1st through December 1st, 2017, the Prince George's County Animal Management Division (AMD) will provide free spay/neuter services for pets belonging to low-income individuals and families residing in the county. This service comes from a grant provided by the Maryland Department of Agriculture. For more information on the free spay and neutering program or to learn how you may qualify, contact Catherine Hernandez at 301-780-7252. **Spay-A-Day Keeps the Litter Away, will keep away the population of feral (wild) animals.**
- ◆ Friday, May 19 – Chief on the Go with PG Police Chief “Hank” Stawinski, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm at Towne Center at Laurel, 14716 Baltimore Avenue. Come meet the Chief and the District VI Command Staff.
- ◆ Sunday, May 21 – Crossroads Farmer’s Market 11th Season Kickoff Party, 3:00-6:00 pm. Helps us kick off our season at the party with food, drinks, live music and silent auction. **Location:** Anne St. (between University Blvd. & Hammond Ave., across from the Rite Aid) Takoma Park, MD 20912. Crossroads Community Food Network is building a healthier, more inclusive food system in Maryland’s Takoma/Langley Cross-

roads. The Crossroads Farmer’s Market will open on May 31. <https://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org>


- ◆ Sunday, May 21 – Beltsville Day, Noon – 5:00 pm, Beltsville Community Center, 3900 Sellman Road, Beltsville, MD. Community event with food, music, games and displays. <http://beltsvillereccouncil.homestead.com/beltsvilleday.html>
- ◆ Wednesday, May 31 – Crossroads Farmer’s Market opens for the season, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm, rain or shine. **Location:** Anne St. (between University Blvd. & Hammond Ave., across from the Rite Aid) Takoma Park, MD 20912.
- ◆ Thursday, June 1 - CCA Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, Calverton Elementary School, Media Center.
- ◆ This will be the last board meeting until September. Please join us.
- ◆ Wednesday, June 7 – East County Citizens Advisory Board, 7:00 pm at the East County Regional Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road.

- ◆ Wednesday, June 7 – Mary Lehman’s Town Hall Meeting. Details to follow.

- ◆ Thursday, June 8 – Coffee with Police, 1:00 pm, Laurel Senior Center, 7120 Contee Road, Laurel, MD.

- ◆ Tuesday, June 13 – Coffee with Police, 1:00 pm, Riderwood in the Celebrations Room. Topic: TBD

- ◆ Tuesday, June 20 – District 21 Delegation Legislative Wrap-Up, 7:00 pm. Location: TBD
- ◆ Tuesday, July 4 – Calverton July 4 Celebration Event, 10:45 am – 1:30 pm on Field 1 at the Calverton Field next to Calverton Elementary School. **Please volunteer to help.**

THE MONTH OF

IS

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month,
Haitian Heritage Month,
Jewish American Heritage Month
Asian Pacific American Month
National Bike Month,
Mental Health Awareness Month,
National Stroke Awareness Month
National Salad Month
National Foster Care Month
Gold Month
Beef Month
National Pet Month
Skin Cancer Awareness Month
Building Safety Month
MS Awareness Month

IMPORTANT NUMBERS:

Call 911 for immediate assistance for an emergency or dangerous situation.

When 911 is down and you cannot get through to the 911 operator, do not keep calling 911 if it keeps ringing. This can be a matter of life and death. Call one of the other numbers listed below:

Montgomery County non-emergency for District 3 – 240-773-6800 or 240-777-0311 for 311.

Prince George's County for District VI – 301-937-0910, 301-352-1200 or 311.

If you cannot get through to the police, you can also call the fire departments:

Prince George's County - 301-883-5200 or 311

Montgomery County Burtonsville – 240-773-4715 or 240-777-0311

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms can be obtained for free from the fire department. The fire department will come out to do an inspection of your home:

PG – 301-583-2200

MC – 240-773-4715

Police safety inspection of your home:

MC District 3 – 240-773-6800

PG District VI – 301-937-0910

Code violations and inspections

PG – 311

MC – 311, but if you are dialing from your 572 exchange you need to call 240-770-0311

PEPCO:

Emergency, down wires, etc. 1-877-737-2662

Rebates for appliances: Customer Care at 202-833-7500. If you are digging in your yard, Contact Miss Utility or District One by phone: Dial

811 to make sure that you are not digging near any utility lines. Pepco will provide a free energy audit of your home call Customer Care at 202-833-7500

WSSC:

24-hour call center for emergencies: Toll Free: 800-828-6439

Main: 301-206-WSSC (9772)

Washington Gas:

Gas odor or leak is an emergency: call 911 and get out of the house.

Emergency line: 703-750-1400 or 1-800-752-7520

Paving Hotline: 703-750-4524

Paving emails: Dgurbard@washgas.com or Kbates@washgas.com

If you have a question and need an answer, you can always call your County Council person. They are always there to help us:

PG District 1 – Mary Lehman: 301-952-3887

MC District 5 – Tom Hucker: 240-777-7960

BULK PICKUP FOR BOTH COUNTIES

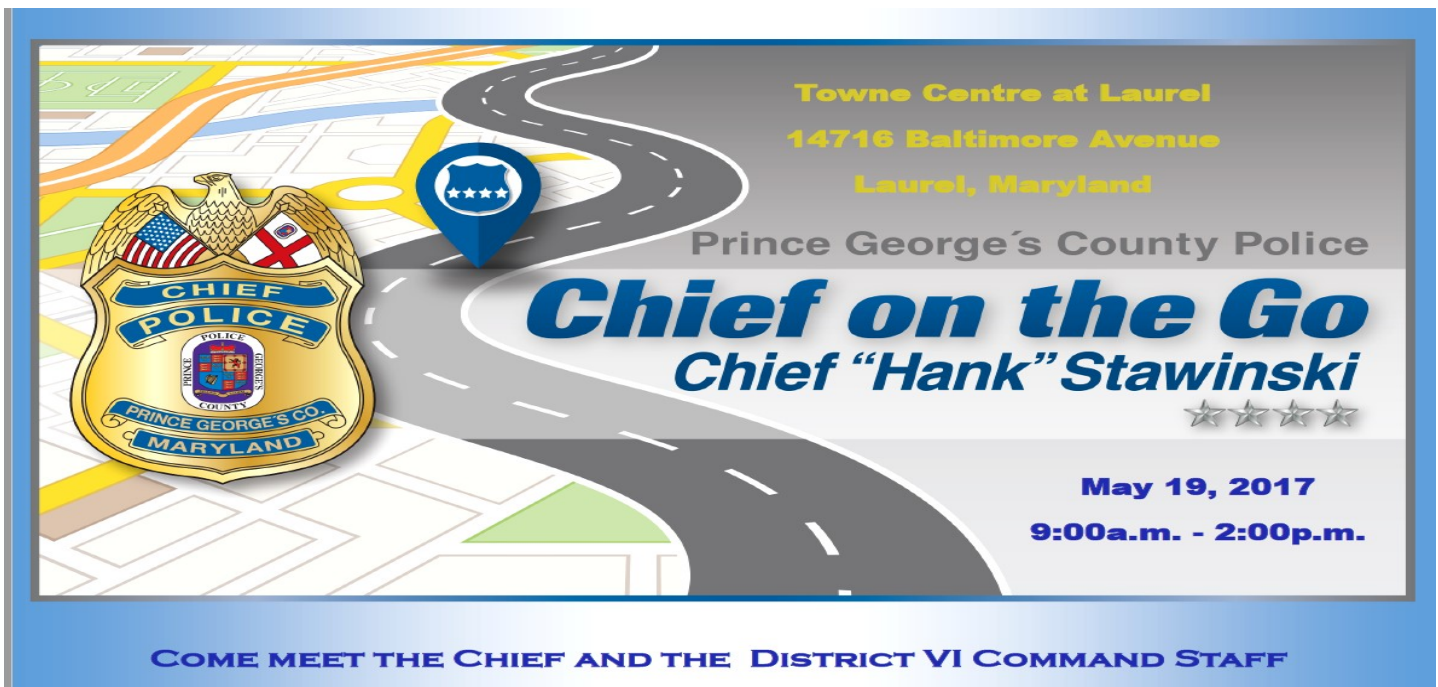
Prince George's County:

The county will make a Special Bulk pick up for old appliances, scrap metal, old mattresses or furniture: Call 311 to schedule the pickup of your items.

Montgomery County:

Since Montgomery County Calverton residents do not have county trash pickup, Montgomery County Special Bulk pickup is only for scrap metal, old lawnmower, appliance, etc. Call 311 the week before to schedule a special pickup on your recycling day the next week.

If you have old mattresses or old furniture you have to call your trash hauler. Some people have Beltsville Refuse picking up their trash, so you need to call Beltsville Refuse about picking up your old mattress, couch, etc.



Towne Centre at Laurel
14716 Baltimore Avenue
Laurel, Maryland

Prince George's County Police
Chief on the Go
Chief "Hank" Stawinski
☆☆☆☆

May 19, 2017
9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m.

COME MEET THE CHIEF AND THE DISTRICT VI COMMAND STAFF