

## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

Frederick County VA, Sheriff's Office

January 2018



The Frederick County Sheriff's Office distributes a quarterly *Neighborhood Watch Newsletter*. We envision this to be instrumental in assisting the Sheriff's Office to communicate more effectively with the neighborhoods we serve. To help us with the endeavor, please email any questions or suggestions for the newsletter to ***[rgatshal@fcva.us](mailto:rgatshal@fcva.us)***

If you or someone else would like to start a neighborhood watch program, or would like to report any suspicious activity in your neighborhood, please contact:

Captain Aleck Beeman  
1080 Coverstone Dr.  
Winchester, VA. 22602  
1-540-662-6168  
***[abeeman@fcva.us](mailto:abeeman@fcva.us)***



Visit <http://www.fcva.us/> County Homepage

Visit the Frederick County Sheriff's Office website <http://www.fcva.us/departments/sheriff-s-office>

# Community Connection

The Frederick County Sheriff's Office offers a program which coordinates law enforcement and other professionals in the community who specialize in meeting the needs of **seniors** through planning, education, communication, cooperative strategies, and supportive services.

Regular meetings will take place the second Tuesday of each month from 1-2 p.m., at the Frederick County Public Safety Building located at 1080 Coverstone Drive, Winchester, VA, in the first floor community room. Our commitment is to reduce victimization and enhance law enforcement services provided to our senior population.

As part of the Community Connections program the Frederick County Sheriff's Office is offering to conduct welfare checks on individuals who would benefit. If you know of anyone who would be of benefit from this service please contact, or have them contact, Patti Williams at 540-504-6579 to get signed up!



## **NATIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM**

### **HOME SECURITY INSPECTION CHECKLIST**

An important step in preventing home burglary and other crimes is to make sure that a residence is as secure as possible. A careful inspection by someone trained to observe security precautions can indicate features which would make entry easy — or difficult — for a prospective burglar.

Chances are good that home security can be improved. Take a hard look at entry points in your residence and determine what steps can reduce vulnerability. A security inspection begins at the front door and goes on to include side and rear doors, windows, locks, lights, and landscaping. Any questions answered with "No", indicate security weaknesses or hazards that require attention.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of assistance to you in the community's fight against crime. We urge you not only to take steps to make your own residence safer, but also to become active in a Neighborhood Watch program for the benefit of your entire community.

This form was produced and distributed by THE NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION in cooperation with your local law enforcement agency

## **FRONT ENTRANCE**

1. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction?
2. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?
3. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside?
4. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks?
5. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw?
6. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws?
7. If there are no windows in door, is there a wide-angle viewer or voice intercom device?
8. Can the lock mechanism be reached through a mail slot, delivery port or pet entrance at doorway?
9. Is there a screen or storm door with an adequate lock?
10. Is exterior or front entrance lighted with at least a 40-watt light?
11. Can front entrance be observed from street or public areas?
12. Does porch or landscaping offer concealment from view from street or public areas?

## **SIDE OR REAR ENTRANCE**

13. Is door itself of metal or solid wood construction?
14. Is doorframe strong enough and tight enough to prevent forcing or spreading?
15. Are door hinges protected from removal from outside?
16. Are there windows in the door or within 40 inches of the locks?
17. Is door secured by a deadbolt lock with a minimum 1-inch throw?
18. Are strikes and strike plates adequate and properly installed with 3-inch screws?
19. Can the lock mechanism be reached from outside through a delivery port or pet entrance?
20. Is the exterior of the doorway lighted by at least a 40-watt bulb?
21. Is doorway concealed from street or neighbors view by porch, fence, or landscaping?
22. Does doorway have screen or storm door with adequate lock?
23. If door is sliding glass door, is the sliding panel secured from being lifted out of the track?
24. Is a "charley-bar" or key-operated lock used on sliding glass door?

## **ENTRANCES FROM GARAGE AND BASEMENT**

- 25. Are all entrances to living quarters from garage and basement of metal or solid wood construction?
- 26. Does door from garage to living quarters have locks adequate for exterior entrance?
- 27. Does door from basement to living quarters have an adequate lock operated from living quarters side?

## **GROUND FLOOR WINDOWS**

- 28. Do all windows have adequate locks in operating condition?
- 29. Do windows have screens or storm windows that lock from the inside?
- 30. Do any windows open onto areas that offer special risk to burglary?
- 31. If so, do these windows have security screens or grills?
- 32. Are exterior areas of windows free from concealing structure or landscaping?
- 33. Is exterior adequately lighted at all window areas?

## **UPPER FLOOR WINDOWS**

- 34. Do any upper floor windows open onto porch or garage roofs or roofs of adjoining buildings?
- 35. If so, are they secured as adequately as if they were at ground level?
- 36. Are trees and shrubbery kept trimmed back from upper floor windows?
- 37. Are ladders kept outside the house where they are accessible?

## **BASEMENT DOORS AND WINDOWS**

- 38. Is there a door from outside to the basement?
- 39. If so, is that door adequately secured for an exterior door?
- 40. Is outside basement entrance lighted by exterior light of at least 40 watts?
- 41. Is outside basement door concealed from street or neighbors?
- 42. Are all basement windows adequately secured against entrance?

## **GARAGE DOORS AND WINDOWS**

- 43. Is automobile entrance door to garage equipped with adequate locking device?
- 44. Is garage door kept closed and locked at all times?
- 45. Are garage windows secured adequately for ground floor windows?
- 46. Is outside utility entrance to garage as secure as required for any ground floor entrance?

47. Are tools, ladders and other equipment kept in garage?

48. Are all garage doors lighted on the outside by at least a 40-watt bulb?

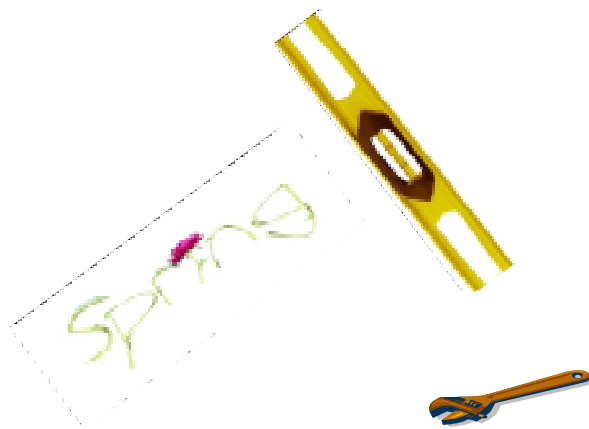
Again, any questions answered with "No", indicate security weaknesses or hazards that require attention.



## DID YOU KNOW??

If you visit o website [www.fcva.us/departments/sheriff-s-office](http://www.fcva.us/departments/sheriff-s-office), you see a full listing of our  
Calls For Service.

The image is a screenshot of the Frederick County Sheriff's Office website. At the top, the logo for Frederick County Virginia is displayed with the tagline "Life At The Top". Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: Services, Live, Visit, Business, Departments (which is underlined with a red line), and How Do I... A red magnifying glass icon is on the right. The main content area features a large banner image of a white patrol car with "SHERIFF" and "FREDERICK COUNTY" written on the side. Below the banner, the text "SHERIFF'S OFFICE: PATROL" is visible. To the left of the banner is a sidebar menu. A large red arrow points from the left towards the "Calls for Service Report" link in the sidebar. Other links in the sidebar include Contact Us, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Email Sheriff - Lenny Miltholland, Annual Report, Arrest Report, Archives, Business Watch, Code Of Ethics, Cold Cases, Community Outreach, Divisions, Forms, Related Links and Services, and Wanted Persons Gallery. Below the banner, there are five blue buttons with icons: Arrest Report, Calls for Service Report, Community Outreach, Freedom of Information Act, and Divisions. Further down, there is a "Mission Statement" section and a "MEDICATION DISPOSAL" section. On the right side, there is a "NEWS" section with a headline "FY 2017 Financial Reports published".



Every spring we try to help homeowners be prepared and protect themselves from fraud and scams. You may be considering hiring people to help with your home improvements, be AWARE.

- ✚ Always use a licensed contractor and check references. Ask for a copy of the license.
- ✚ If possible, get more than one estimate and make sure the estimates are in writing.
- ✚ Be sure to write down the contractor's vehicle license number and vehicle description.
- ✚ Never pay a contractor in full before the work is completed; don't pay in cash; and never sign a blank contract. Make sure you understand all of the contract terms.
- ✚ Call the Better Business Bureau and ask questions about the person\company you are hiring.
- ✚ Remember "If it's too good to be true, it probably is"
- ✚ If someone is adamantly trying to get you to do the job "today" for a discount, be weary. Never let someone talk you into doing something you may not be ready for.
- ✚ There have been numerous cases in the local area for pavement scams. Be cautious and use all tips above.
- ✚ If someone comes to your home prompting you to hire them to do some form of improvement or yard work, be cautious and don't agree to anything at the initial meeting. Ask for a number and tell them you will get back to them once you check them out.

