



# HANOVER COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER



Colonel David R. Hines, Sheriff

Volume 16, No. 1

March 2012

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## IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Our next Neighborhood Watch Coordinators' Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at the Hanover County Sheriff's Office in Training Room A.

### ***PLANNING A SUMMER VACATION?***

Please include a crime prevention plan for your vacation. Contact a trusted neighbor, friend or the **Hanover County Sheriff's Office (804-365-6140 for a property check)** and leave notice of where you are going, how long you will be gone, and a telephone number where you can be reached. If you do have a trusted neighbor or friend, give them a key to your home for use in an emergency. If you have an alarm system, show this person how to activate and deactivate the alarm. Do not hide a key outside of your home. If you can hide it, a thief can find it!

Make your home look as lived in as possible by arranging curtains and blinds and putting lights and audio appliances on timers.

### **Youth Crime Line**

The recent tragic events that involved the killing of children in Hanover County brought out questions about how young people can communicate information anonymously regarding things that are concerns or problems going on at school or in their communities.

The Sheriff's Office, for years, has utilized the Youth Crime Line for young people to use. They can report anything from bullying to criminal activities. This information has been continually advertised in the schools—particularly in the 7-point safety initiative. Please share this number with your children:

**804-365-6828**



*Graduation day for the 2011 Senior Citizens Police Academy!*

### **5th Annual Senior CPA Applications Being Taken Now!!**

The next Senior Citizens Police Academy will begin on April 3, 2012. The program will be held each Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. until June 12 at the Montpelier Community Center located at 17203 Sycamore Tavern Lane. Participants will learn all about their Sheriff's Office and personal safety during this 11-week program. Participants must be Hanover County residents and at least 55 years old. **The deadline for applications is March 9, 2012.**

*For an application, please contact Deputy Jim McLaughlin at 804-365-6335 or, by email, at [jpmclaughlin@co.hanover.va.us](mailto:jpmclaughlin@co.hanover.va.us)*

### **New Neighborhood Watch!!!**

The residents of **CROWN HILL Rd.** banned together, after a series of burglaries in their area, to join Neighborhood Watch. They have met the requirements and currently are working to install their sign.

## Etiquette Reminders for Traffic Violation Stops

### Traffic Safety Reminder

*During the normal course of the day, there are hundreds of vehicles travelling in and through our county that are pulling trailers. Some of these are recreational use trailers, boat trailers, equipment haulers and the larger commercial sized vehicle trailers. Some trailers are “home-made”, which is designed and built by an individual.*

*We would like to remind you of a few things to consider regarding the use of trailers:*

- ♦ *ALL trailers must be licensed when used on public roadways.*
- ♦ *Trailers with two or more axles MUST be inspected annually by an approved VA State Inspection station.*
- ♦ *Ensure that the trailer weight and tongue weight does not exceed the rating of the towing vehicle.*
- ♦ *Make sure that the ball hitch is the correct size for the receiver on the trailer.*
- ♦ *Attach the required safety chains from the trailer to the vehicle properly and make sure they do not drag on the ground. Make sure that the chain size is suitable to sustain the load of the trailer should the trailer become detached from the pulling vehicle. Inspect them periodically to ensure they are not rusted or unable to perform their necessary function properly.*
- ♦ *Always check the electrical connections between the vehicle and trailer to make sure the lights come on properly.*
- ♦ *“Home-made” trailers must have a VIN (vehicle identification number) assigned to it. This number is assigned by the Department of Motor Vehicles and, once issued, must be permanently affixed to the trailer. A law enforcement officer must then come and inspect the trailer to ensure the VIN number is correctly fastened to the trailer before final approval is given by DMV.*
- ♦ *REPORT any unsafe conditions you see involving trailers to law enforcement immediately!*
- ♦ *When transporting items in a trailer, make sure they're secured to prevent them from falling or blowing out while travelling down the road.*

NO ONE likes to be pulled over by law enforcement, but should it happen, we would like to remind you of a few things that will make the process as quick and painless as possible.

- ♦ Slow down and find a safe place to pull over.
- ♦ If you aren't sure it's a police vehicle (unmarked), call 911 on your cell to verify a law enforcement officer is trying to stop you. If you don't have a phone, drive slowly to a public or well-lit area before stopping.
- ♦ Put your hands in a visible spot, such as on the steering wheel or outside the window for the approaching officer to see. Let them know when you're reaching in to the glove compartment or for a wallet before doing so. If you have weapons in the vehicle, or on your person, please let them know this immediately to prevent them from seeing it suddenly and not knowing what your intentions may be. (It is most concerning to officers to have you going into pockets or vehicle compartments where they can't readily see things that may cause them harm.)
- ♦ Remember that arguing with an officer on the side of the road can be dangerous! This is not the place to have a dispute. There are many hazards such as oncoming traffic to contend with. You can come to the stated court date to have your side of the story heard by the judge who will then make a decision of guilt or innocence.

## Springtime Safety Reminders

**Spring is on its way. As we begin to make our way outdoors into warmer weather, please keep these tips in mind:**

- ◆ When travelling in your car, be mindful that the little ones will be out more as well. Keep your eyes open and your speed down.
- ◆ After doing outside activities, please put your tools and other personal items away to prevent them from being stolen or used to vandalize or gain entry into your house.
- ◆ When outside, remember to keep your residence secure (particularly the doors and windows you cannot easily see from where you are) to prevent someone from going into your residence without your knowledge.
- ◆ Be wary of people who approach you to sell or offer you something. Spring typically is the time of the year when the paving scams begin. Commercial solicitors are required to have a solicitor's license from Hanover County (**See picture below of a Hanover County Solicitor's Permit**) and are required to present this upon demand in addition to a photo ID. If they are not cooperative or do not have the appropriate license, please notify the Sheriff's Office immediately so we can respond to identify the persons and take appropriate action!
- ◆ Tax season comes to a close on **April 17, 2012**. Remember to file on time and shred all unnecessary or unwanted documents. Take time to check your credit report. Remember you can check each reporting company one time per year for free!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization/ Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

The bearer of this Solicitor's Permit has obtained permission from the County of Hanover to offer for sale certain merchandise or service for a period of one year.

To be valid this permit must be accompanied with a valid photo I.D.

Expires \_\_\_\_\_

Hanover County Administrator

Permit No. \_\_\_\_\_



## You've Won!!!

We continue to receive information from citizens throughout the county regarding emails they receive indicating they've won lotteries or someone needs their assistance in transferring funds.

Please remember that it is important to think about what you've received before responding.

Did you play this lottery?

Are you familiar with the person who sent you the email?

Is the spelling and grammar correct in the email? Reputable companies take great pains to ensure they deliver quality information.

Does the person that sent you the email require that you make some form of payment in order to receive your award? Reputable companies do not require this.

Once you've determined that your email does have one of these ALARMS in it, then its time for you to **DELETE THE EMAIL** immediately! **IT IS A SCAM!**



For more information about Internet or personal safety, contact the Crime Prevention Unit to set up a time for us to come do a presentation for your community or civic groups at 804-365-6110!



The 29th Annual National Night Out will be celebrated on August 7, 2012. The Hanover Sheriff's Office would like to invite every neighborhood in the County to participate in this event.

National Night Out is designed to help enhance awareness of crime and crime prevention efforts. It's a night to get out and meet your neighbors and watch out for crime in your neighborhood.

Neighborhood involvement can be as simple as turning on your front porch light and as extravagant as a neighborhood cookout or a flashlight walk around the neighborhood.

If you plan to have an activity in your neighborhood, please let the Sheriff's Office know so we can be a part of your celebration. We would like to have the deputies that work in your neighborhood be there to meet the people in your neighborhood and answer any questions they might have about crime or crime prevention.

McGruff the Crime Dog and Daren the Lion would also like to come out and meet the kids! **Call Deputy Barry Bland at 804-365-7116 or by e-mail at [bwbland@co.hanover.va.us](mailto:bwbland@co.hanover.va.us)**

## National Night Out 2012

### Start Planning Now!!!