



NEWS RELEASE

COLONEL H. W. STANLEY JR – CHIEF OF POLICE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **Metro Crime Prevention Officers Sow Seeds of Safety this Summer**

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RICHMOND, Va. - The Central Virginia Crime Prevention Association joins forces with local law enforcement agencies to, “*Sow Seeds of Safety with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)*.” The program is designed to teach homeowners and gardeners how to prevent crime through the choices they make when buying new plants trees and shrubs or when planning the landscape design for their homes. The program is free and open to the public.

Crime prevention police officers from Henrico, Chesterfield, Richmond, Virginia State Police and crime prevention deputies from Hanover are offering the new program to home centers, local nurseries, garden groups and other citizen groups. *Sowing Seeds of Safety with CPTED* explains how CPTED’s key concepts help prevent crime and how those principles can be combined with the concept of sustainable landscaping to create an environment that is safer for homeowners, the surrounding neighborhood, and the community.

The program will discuss choices in fencing, lighting, choosing plant materials, and maintaining the environment once it has been created in addition to some basic crime prevention principles. At this time of the year, homes, garden sheds and garages are often robbed while people are still at home, but in their back yards gardening or cutting the grass, so officers also will remind folks of some basic crime prevention measures.

Crystal Martin, Public Information Coordinator for Henrico County Division of Police said, “When citizens implement these principles into their landscape or garden design plan, they can improve their environment aesthetically and improve their quality of life. It is not necessary to turn a home and its’ landscaping into something that looks like a fortress. With the knowledge citizens gain from this program, they can make their home safer as well as more beautiful.”

For more information about the program and where it will be held or to schedule a program for your group, call your local police/sheriff’s department’s crime prevention unit or the Virginia State Police Crime Prevention Unit. The telephone numbers are: Hanover – 365-7116; Henrico - 501-4838; Chesterfield – 674-7006, Ext. 112; Richmond 646-6754 or 646-0407; Virginia State Police Crime Prevention-674-4632.

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