

How We Can Help

The mission of the Prince William County Police Department is to enhance the quality of life by providing police services through shared responsibility with the public.

The Prince William County Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit is dedicated to providing education and training to the citizens of Prince William County. Crime prevention is more than just security – it is *community*.

Cleaning up litter, starting a Neighborhood Watch, posting no loitering signs, and locking your doors are examples of simple, cost-effective measures that prevent crime and improve the quality of life in our community.

This guide is being provided so that you can learn basic techniques to help prevent crime and provide you a list of resources to assist you. If you should have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270.

Citizen's Guide to Crime Prevention & Community Resources



Prince William County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit

Resources & Referrals

Adult Detention Center
703-792-6420

Animal Control
703-792-6465 or 703-792-6500
Information on lost pets, found animals, dog licenses and adoptions from the animal shelter and provides animal related law enforcement.

Area Agency on Aging
703-792-6400
Offers a wide range of services for senior citizens and their families.

Community Services Board
703-792-7800
Provides substance abuse counseling and programs, family counseling and 24-hour emergency services for individuals with mental illnesses.

Department of Social Services
703-792-7500
Helps families and individuals meet their basic needs and become self-sufficient and protects children and vulnerable adults from abuse.

Magistrate
Woodbridge: 703-792-7360
Manassas: 703-792-6260
Issues warrants, subpoenas, civil processes, conducts bail and bond hearings, accepts citizen criminal complaints and pre-payable fines.

Office of Dispute Resolution
703-792-4753
Resolves conflicts related to small business, neighborhood disputes, landlord/tenant, merchant/customer and parent/teen with the guidance of a qualified mediator.

Public Works
703-792-6820
Responsible for a number of services including maintaining road and street lights, street signs, property code enforcement, construction permits and illegal dumping.

Residential Facilities
ACTS – 703-221-3186
SERVE – 571-748-2603
Emergency shelter for people who are temporarily homeless.

Sexual Assault Victim's Advocacy Service
24-Hour Helpline 703-368-4141
Hospital and court accompaniment, individual crisis counseling and support groups for survivors of sexual assault as well as their loved ones and friends.

Domestic Violence Resources

ACTS/Turning Points
703-221-4951
Domestic violence program and emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence.

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Services Unit
703-792-6210
Handles child custody & support matters, protective orders and juvenile delinquency issues.

Victim/Witness Services
703-792-8220
Offers victims and witnesses guidance and assistance, including appropriate counseling when necessary.

For more information visit: www.pwcgov.org or call 703-PWC-INFO (792-4636).

Crime Prevention Is Everyone's Business

This is a brief overview of actions that you can take to better protect yourself and your property. We encourage everyone to follow these tips and to share them with your friends and neighbors so that we can all work to prevent crime in our community.

Theft Prevention

- Lock your car and don't leave it running – not even for a minute
- Park in well-lighted areas
- Don't leave a spare set of keys anywhere in or on the car
- Keep your registration card with you and not in your car
- Use your parking brake and turn wheels towards the curb
- Lock valuables in the trunk of the car or out of site
- Don't leave your purse, wallet or other valuables unattended

Robbery Prevention

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Don't carry large amounts of cash or more than two credit cards
- Don't wear large amounts of valuable jewelry

- If you need to make cash drops – vary the times and have someone with you
- Keep the interior of stores well lit and a minimum of two employees working
- Do not block windows with large signs or displays

Burglary Prevention

- Lock all doors and windows in your house
- Utilize deadbolts on all exterior doors and secure sliding glass doors
- Keep all shrubs trimmed below window level
- Keep trees limbed up at least six feet
- Use adequate lighting inside and outside your house or business
- Use timers on lights if you are going to be away
- If you are going to be away for long periods of time, get a trusted neighbor to collect your mail, mow your lawn and even park their car in your drive way from time to time
- Secure all windows with a pin or nail system
- Keep the garage secured and secure valuable items that are inside the garage
- Call the Crime Prevention Unit to do a free security survey of your home or business at 703-792-7270

- Engrave all valuable items with your drivers license number, (**not your social security number**).

Personal Safety

- Be aware of your surroundings
- Trust your instincts
- Avoid parking in dark areas and going out alone
- Walk with confidence and alertness
- Have your keys ready when approaching your house or car
- Get in and out of your vehicle as quickly as possible
- When in your car, lock your doors immediately and wear your seat belt
- Keep money and credit cards in your pocket or inside your jacket
- Pre-plan and think through possible attacks and carry a cell phone

Neighborhood Watch

- Neighborhood Watch is proven to be one of the best crime prevention tools
- Creates greater awareness of crime
- Brings neighbors closer together and creates community pride
- Increases reporting of crime and suspicious activities
- Serves as warning to criminals

- Results in a better and safer community
- Crime prevention training provided
- Call the Crime Prevention Unit today to start a neighborhood watch in your community at 703-792-7270

Crime Prevention Contacts & Resources

For more information on any of the topics discussed in this guide or if you are interested in participating in the *Citizen Police Academy*, please call the Prince William County Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at 703-792-7270.

Or use the following resources:

Prince William County Police - www.pwcgov.org/police

Traffic Safety Line - 703-792-5919

McGruff, resources for children and adults - www.mcgruff-safe-kids.com

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children - www.ncmec.org

Help Eliminate Auto Theft (HEAT) - www.heatreward.com

National Crime Prevention Council - www.ncpc.org