

The City FOCUS

A Report to the Citizens of the City of Colonial Heights

Judges Issue Courthouse Order

Many of our citizens know that the city is facing significant expenses to improve the City Courthouse. For over a year, the City Council and the Circuit Court Judges have been in a disagreement over the size of the Courthouse Project. Both sides want to address the safety, security and separation issues in the Courthouse. The size of the Courthouse is the issue that has kept the project from advancing.

Also, over the past year, two Committees explored the reuse of the old Colonial Heights Baptist Church property. They have recommended that a three courtroom facility be located in the old church building. City Council has been considering this recommendation for the past three months. Revenue projections and cost estimates relating to moving the Courthouse to a new site are currently being examined.

In early October, the Circuit Court Judges served a *Show Cause Order* on each member of City Council. The Order required City Council to explain why improvements have not been made to the Courthouse. City Council will continue its efforts to decide on the size and location of the Courthouse Project over the coming months.

Trash Items

The City's contract with our trash collector does not provide for collection of regular trash cans. These cans without wheels are often too heavy for the trash collectors and the automated lifters cannot be used to dump them. Only the big blue rolling containers supplied by the City can be collected. Trash bags not exceeding 30 gallons and a loaded weight not to exceed 35 pounds may be used for any additional refuse. If you have more trash than the rolling container can hold, please use bags—not old trash cans. Yard waste can be tied in a bundle that forms an easily handled package not exceeding four (4) feet in length and not exceeding seventy-five (75) pounds in weight. Additional City-provided rolling containers may be arranged for a fee by calling Utility Billing at 520-9288.

If you want to transport your yard waste, the Convenience Center, behind Sheetz is open Friday and Saturday. Residents are also reminded that our trash contractor will pick-up junk at the curb on Wednesday with your regular trash. Our contract provides for bulky waste collection of up to a half ton pickup load at no extra charge. If you need collection of a large volume of bulky waste (more than a pickup load) call the Department of Public Works at 520-9372 to schedule a special collection.



BOULEVARD MODERNIZATION



The Boulevard Modernization Project will improve traffic on the Boulevard from Lafayette Avenue to Westover Avenue. Benefits of the project include:

- ☆ A center turn lane
- ☆ Landscaping and lighting
- ☆ Bicycle lanes
- ☆ Sidewalks and crosswalks
- ☆ Improved business access
- ☆ Storm drain system improvements
- ☆ A wider Dupuy Avenue Intersection

In June, the City initiated preliminary engineering. The City is currently gathering information along the corridor and conducting a variety of field studies. Public collaboration and input during this time is very important. On September 24, 2009, the City conducted a Citizen Information Meeting (CIM) to present a preliminary concept and answer questions. Interested persons will be able to provide input at a formal Public Hearing anticipated in January 2010.

On the City's web site (<http://www.colonial-heights.com/PWindex.htm>) you will find information regarding the project schedule, upcoming activities, maps, public meetings, contact information and more. Please feel free to contact the Department of Public Works (520-9334) with any comments, questions, or concerns.

New Trail Opens

There was a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 25, 2009, at Roslyn Landing Park that officially opened Phase I of the Appomattox River Greenway Trail and the small boat launch. Approximately 4/10 of a mile is now open for public use and enjoyment.

The Trail Committee announced that a capital campaign will soon begin, with the goal being to raise \$10.00 per trail foot. This \$100,000 private fundraising goal would be approximately 10% of the cost of the entire trail. The City has and will continue to also support the effort. Trail Committee Chairman, Lewis Johnson, said; "We know our fundraising goal is ambitious, but we want to ensure that the entire trail is constructed as soon as we can. If we want it to happen, we all need to get behind this fundraising effort and make it happen."

Contributions may be made to the Colonial Heights Foundation at: P. O. Box 234, Colonial Heights. For further information, log on to the Trail Project at www.colonialheightstrails.org. or call George Schanzenbacher at 520-9275.

STORMWATER CONNECTION

Stormwater carries any stray trash, debris and discarded solvents into our waters via storm drains and unprotected slopes. Debris is one of the most significant contributors to the amount of pollutants found in our waters. Man-made, solid material that enters our waterways, either directly or indirectly, accounts for roughly 86% of the trash found in Virginia's rivers and on Virginia's beaches. It isn't surprising, to see the importance of proper management of all the trash and debris we discard during our fall home and yard work.

There are many simple steps each of us can take to reduce the amount of debris and hazardous materials we produce. First, we can make certain we dispose of our leaves and lawn waste properly. Composting our leaves is an easy way to keep them out of our streams and rivers while helping us save money on mulches and topsoil. The City's Department of Public Works conveniently collects leaves during the fall, and information on collection schedules can be found on the City's website and in this newsletter. If you are planning to haul your leaves yourself, be sure to secure and completely cover your load.

Did You Know. . .

The average home has 50 to 100 pounds of hazardous chemicals and solvents in it.

In disposing of any chemical agents or solvents containing chemical agents, **NEVER** pour them down a floor drain or storm sewer. The City Recycling Center, located behind Sheetz on Conduit Road, accepts many different types of chemicals and solvents. To find out more, call them at 479-7056. For storage, write the date of purchase on each item's container with a permanent marker to keep a check on the age of any item and follow any and all disposal labels carefully. Keep all substances in their original containers and make sure to properly dispose of items if their containers have become corroded or unstable. Ultimately, everything we dispose of, whether its yard waste or household chemical solvents, can end up impacting our local waters.

Learn more easy steps for decreasing debris and disposing of hazardous materials . . . visit the Stormwater Page under the Department of Public Works on the City's website.

Keep Informed of all the Latest News and Activities in Colonial Heights

Signup today for **e-News** a service that allows you to receive information from the City by email. You may choose the type of information you want to receive. Current choices include: *General News, Employment Information, Library, Recreation & Parks Activities and Economic Development*. Subscribing to **e-News** is easy:

1. Visit the City's website at www.colonial-heights.com
2. Click on the **e-News** icon
3. Enter your email address, and click the search button.
4. Select one or more of the categories
5. Click the Save button



CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST



Join in the fun while getting into the Christmas spirit by signing-up to participate in the Christmas Decorating Contest. The event is sponsored by the Beautification Committee and the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce.

All entries for this year's Christmas Decorating Contest must be received by 5:00 p.m. on December 4, 2009. The judging will take place Tuesday, December 10, 2009, beginning at approximately 6:00 p.m. by judges selected by the Committee. All judges reside outside of the City limits of Colonial Heights.

The categories are:

- ☆ Doors
- ☆ Traditional (House/Condo/Apartment)
- ☆ Decorative House (Most Creative)
- ☆ Decorative Condo or Apartment (Most Creative)
- ☆ Lighting - House
- ☆ Lighting - Condo or Apartment
- ☆ Commercial/Business

All entries will be judged on merit according to the categories in which entered. Last year's First Place winners will not be eligible for First Place, but will be eligible for other awards.

For further information or to obtain entry forms, please contact the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce at 526-5872.

PETE'S PLACE TEEN CENTER OPENS



On Sunday, July 19, 2009, the dedication of the renovated Community Center and the opening of Pete's Place, our new Teen Center, was held with over 400 people in attendance. Pete's Place, named for former Youth Services Chairman and School Board Member Pete Coleman, has been a dream of the Youth Advisory Council and Commission for over 30 years. The Teen Center, which is open to Colonial Heights Middle and High School students, includes the following: Xbox 360, PS3, Wii, 3 big screen TVs, computers, table tennis, foos ball and vending area.

The hours are Monday through Thursday, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday 3:00 to 10:00 p.m. Sunday the Center will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., for Middle and High School students. Parents are always welcome to tour the Teen Center prior to their children attending.

ELDERLY KEEPSAFE PROGRAM

Elderly citizens living alone can encounter a variety of special problems and concerns. These concerns can increase their anxiety and hamper their independence.

For people living alone, there is the added concern of getting assistance. The Colonial Heights Emergency Communications Center offers peace of mind to elderly and disabled citizens of Colonial Heights through their **Keepsafe Program**.

We simply call the person at the time and interval they specify. Normally, the calls are made daily, but you may choose to be called on any schedule. If we do not receive an answer, we will send a police unit to check your welfare.

Your medical and emergency contact information will be kept on file using a form participants complete. The only thing we ask of the participant is that they inform us when they are not going to be home during their regularly scheduled call time.

Family members take note: Please encourage anyone in your family who qualifies to call, but they must WANT to take part. We respect the wishes of our citizens and will not call anyone who does not want to participate.

To enroll in the Keepsafe Program, please contact the Colonial Heights Emergency Communications Center at (804) 520-9300. We look forward to hearing from you.

Avoid the H1N1 Flu Virus

Take these everyday steps to protect your health and lower your chances of getting the H1N1 virus:

- ☆Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Children are advised to cough or sneeze into their upper arm to avoid their hands.
- ☆Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ☆Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth if you have been in a large group of people.
- ☆Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- ☆If you are sick with flu-like illness, Federal Authorities recommend that you stay home for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, except to get medical care or for other necessities. Try to stay away from others to avoid making them sick.



The City Focus is a newsletter mailed to residents of the City of Colonial Heights, published by the Office of the City Manager, to inform residents of government actions and events of interest in the City. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Exercise Classes



The Recreation and Parks Department is offering the following Exercise Classes: *Tae Box*—\$29.00 per program, November 17th through December 17th Tuesday and Thursdays - 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. *Okinawan Karate* (ages 5 through adult) \$35.00 per program; November 2nd through 30th; January 4th through 27th, Monday and Wednesday—5:30 until 6:30 p.m., 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 until 8:30 p.m. *YMCA Fitness Classes* \$30.00 per program; January 5th through 21st, Tuesday and Thursday—6:00 until 7:00 p.m. and *Belly Dancing* \$80.00 per program; February 4th through March 25th, Thursday 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. for Beginners and 7:00 until 8:00 p.m. for advance classes.

Senior Social



The Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring a Senior Social on the 2nd Friday of November and December at the Community Center. The fee is \$6.00, music provided by *The Antiques*. Capacity 150 people. Tickets may be purchased at the Senior Center.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Participation as a "Volunteer" brings personal satisfaction and gives a tremendous sense of accomplishment. It also involves working as a team under sometimes very difficult circumstances. Assisting your community by being a volunteer firefighter or emergency medical technician provides our citizens with valuable services that touch our lives.

Volunteers receive all uniforms and equipment, as well as other additional benefits. Training is held on the first Thursday of each month, and business meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month. There are several capacities in which you can serve.

Colonial Heights Fire & EMS is always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested in applying for volunteer membership, application packets are available for pickup in the Fire Administration Office located at 100-B Highland Avenue, or you can call 520-9387. For additional information, check out our website at www.colonial-heights.com.

Financial Records Look Good

The City has received its twenty-ninth straight Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of impartial GFOA panel. The Award confirms that the CAFR or audit report clearly communicates the financial story of the City. Citizens interested in reviewing the City's Financial Statements should contact Bill Johnson, Director of Finance, at 520-9332 or johnsonw@colonial-heights.com.



Colonial Heights Virtual Library

The Colonial Heights Public Library provides residents, and particularly students, with a virtual library that can be found at www.colonial-heights.com/library.htm. The virtual library provides access to full-text articles from over 7,000 full-text magazines and journals dating back over a decade, and thousands of electronic books not available on the open internet.

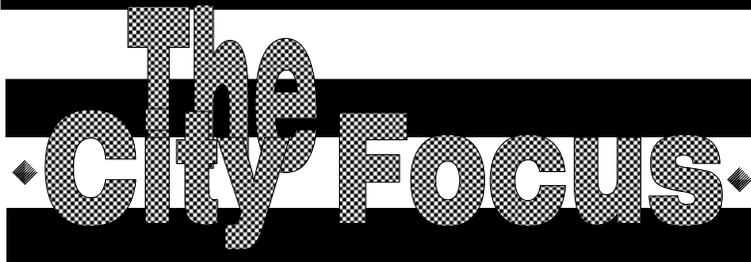
Honoring Lt. Jamie Sears

Many may have noticed the curbing that was recently painted depicting the "thin blue line" on the Boulevard northbound near Colonial Square. The thin blue line is recognized by its two colors; black representing the memories of fallen officers, and the blue representing the bonds of those who remain. The City dedicated the curb painting and a memorial stone honoring the memory of Lt. James H. (Jamie) Sears. The stone recognizes the seventeen years of service that Lt. Sears gave to his community and to the profession.

For his loss we will always be sorrowful...For his life, we will always be grateful.

Inside This Issue:

- Judges Issue Courthouse Order
- Trash Items
- Boulevard Modernization
- New Trail Opens
- Stormwater Connection
- Keep Informed of all the Latest News and Activities
- Christmas Decorating Contest
- Pete's Place Teen Center Opens
- Elderly Keepsafe Program
- Avoid the H1N1 Flu Virus
- Recreation Programs
- Volunteers Needed
- Financial Records Look Good
- Colonial Heights Virtual Library
- Honoring Lt. Jamie Sears



**City of Colonial Heights
Office of the City Manager
Post Office Box 3401
Colonial Heights, Virginia 23834-9001
www.colonial-heights.com**

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Neighborhood Leaf Removal Service

Fall 2009/Winter 2010



Convenient Service during Fall Season

The City of Colonial Heights Department of Public Works is pleased to announce that convenient leaf removal services will be provided in city neighborhoods again this year. Each fall, residents collect and stockpile loose leaves along city streets, which city crews remove and make available to local recycling businesses. During the 2008 season, city crews collected approximately 2,870 cubic yards of leaves.

Year Round Service Option

Bagged leaves are collected year round and may be placed at the curbside on regular trash collection days. The limit per collection day is 30 bags, each weighing no more than 50 pounds.

Neighborhood Service Areas

This year leaf removal operations will occur in three main service areas, each consisting of three to four neighborhoods. Figure 1 shows the service areas and schedules. Signs will be installed on adjacent thoroughfares to let residents know in advance when service is scheduled in their area. Please note that the time for service in each area is subject to change depending on inclement weather conditions and other events beyond the City's control.

Scheduled Time of Service

Leaves will be collected and removed during the hours of 7:30 AM and 3:00 PM, Monday through Friday, beginning November 09, 2009 and ending January 30, 2010.

Preparing Leaves for City Collection

Residents are asked to place leaves along street frontages and roadsides one week before service is scheduled to begin in their neighborhood. No leaves will be removed except during regularly scheduled times. Leaves that are not placed before regularly scheduled removal times will be removed during the next regularly scheduled service in the area. City crews cannot remove leaves from private property.

Avoid Mixing Leaves with Other Debris

Residents are asked to keep leaf piles free of tree branches, lumber, steel, rock, concrete or other debris. Hard objects mixed with leaves are hazardous and may damage leaf vacuum equipment causing unnecessary time and expense to repair or replace.

Neighborhood Parking During Leaf Removal Service

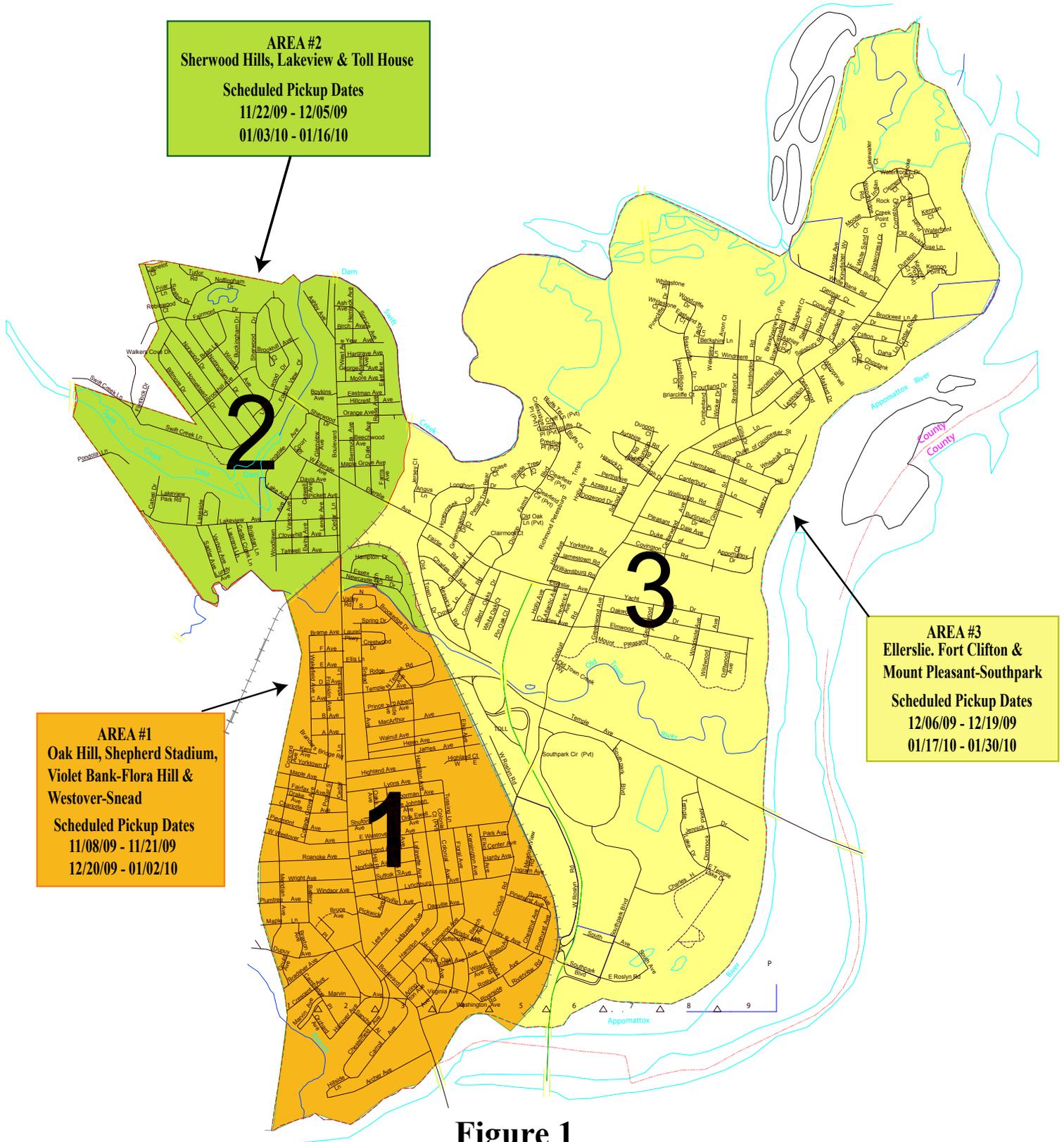
Residents can assist city leaf removal operations by keeping parked vehicles clear of leaf piles. The use of off-street parking is encouraged wherever available. "No Parking" signs may be used to restrict parking on neighborhood streets while city crews remove leaf piles. To avoid damaging personal property, city crews will not rake leaf piles out from under or between parked cars.

More Information

Residents may contact the Public Works Department at 520-9372 for more information about this convenient neighborhood service.



Neighborhood Leaf Removal Schedule Fall 2009/Winter 2010



Help Protect Your Water!

from illegal dumping & illicit discharges...

CALL
520-2003

Illegal discharges are:

- * polluted dumping
- * contaminated runoff
- * discolored outfall discharge
- * improperly connected floor drains



Illegal discharges can:

- * contaminate our water
- * cause fish kills
- * destroy our recreational areas and resources

Department of Public Works
City of Colonial Heights
201 James Avenue
Colonial Heights, VA 23834
(804) 520-9334



Illegal discharges can be both intentional & unintentional. Dumping oils, solvents or yard waste into a storm drain, oily or soapy runoff from a business, leaky & unattended oil or chemical storage units, & discolored or chemical-smelling discharges from a sewer outfall all constitute an illegal discharge. These illegal discharges are punishable by civil & criminal penalties. They damage the health of Swift Creek, Old Town Creek &



the Appomattox River, and endanger our recreational and drinking waters. You can help: call the City's illegal discharge hotline & report any polluted discharges you see.



Call **520-2003**

Anonymous callers welcomed



Crime Prevention Tips

The rush and good will that surround the holidays can increase the opportunities for criminal activity. The Colonial Heights Police Department suggests these simple tips to assist you in having a safe and happy holiday season:

- **Be ALERT and AWARE of your surroundings.** Pay attention to who is around you and what activities are happening. Do not leave the safety of a building or your vehicle until you have ensured all is secure and safe. Trust your instincts—if you feel uncomfortable with a place or person(s), get away.
- **Park in a well-lit area.**
- **Remember to lock your vehicle!!** Keep vehicle doors and windows locked while you are in it—and especially when you are not! Use anti-theft steering wheel clubs or locks as well. A thief is looking for easy targets—anything you can do to deter them from choosing your car, the better.
- **Minimize the number of valuables left in your vehicle** and keep valuables, electronics (including cell phones and DVDs), gifts and other "theft attractors" out of sight.
- **Protect your purse or wallet** and clean out any unnecessary items before leaving home. Do not carry large amounts of cash or extra credit cards. Carry only those cards that you will need to use that day. Keep a master list of all cards so if your wallet is stolen, they can be reported promptly to the appropriate banking facility.
- **Never leave your purse, wallet or cell phone unattended in a public place.**
- **Don't overburden yourself** with packages while shopping.
- **Shop with a buddy**—there is safety in numbers.
- **Role-play with children** about what should happen in the event you are separated.
- **Have your keys out** and ready when you return to your vehicle.
- **Do not leave your car unattended** with the motor running or with the keys in the ignition—even for the very short time needed to do a quick errand or pay for fuel.