

December 19, 2014

### **Beware of "IRS" Phone Scam**

Today, a resident received a voicemail message on her home answering machine from a man with a British accent who identified himself as "Jeff Morgan" from the Audit Department of the IRS. He said that his message was - intended for the recipient - (how personal of him), and he proceeded to urge the "recipient" not to ignore the phone call and to return a call to him at 805-308-2145. Our resident instantly recognized this as a telephone scam, and she ignored the call. Resident: 1; Crook: 0.

The IRS will not call you.

Never!!! repeat never (as in never, ever) give any personal information to anyone who calls you. Bad things will happen. Don't do it. Period. Ignore the call.

If you happen to answer the phone and are faced with a live-action "Jeff Morgan" (or a similar crook with a defective family tree), hang up. Do not be courteous; just hang up.

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Week ending December 5, 2014

### **Prevent Package Theft this Holiday Season!!**

Every year at this time, packages are stolen from front steps by thieves targeting deliveries from services such as UPS and FedEx. It has become a widespread problem nationally; simply search the term "package theft" on the internet, and you will see dozens of videos and news stories of thieves in action.

Residents are advised to take the following steps to reduce the risk of package thefts this holiday season:

1. If you are away from your home during the day, have your packages delivered to your office (or some other occupied location) rather than to your home.
2. If sending packages to your office is impractical, consider having them held at the local delivery company's facility and pick it up there. Somewhat less convenient than front-door delivery, but this method is virtually theft-proof.
  
1. If you choose to have packages delivered to your home, track them. Tracking will enable you to either be at home when they arrive, or to call a trusted neighbor to have them take the package inside for you.

The Chevy Chase Village Police Department wishes you a safe, joyful holiday season!

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Tuesday, November 18, 2014

**Pass-through from the County Police:**

*Residential Burglaries Committed by Transient Criminals*

Below is an unedited message from Commander Falcinelli of the 2nd District (Bethesda) of the Montgomery County Police; Village residents are reminded to call 301-654-7300 for any suspicious situation, and to call 911 in an emergency such as a crime in progress.

"Dear Residents:

Recently, the 2ndDistrict has been subject to several day time residential burglaries which may be related to a recurring transient criminal activity trend. Unlike other residential burglaries, these occur usually during daylight and during a short window of opportunity. This is one crime that will require the "eyes and ears" of the community to help prevent and solve. Please review the following information on transient criminals and be sure to call the police at 301-279-8000 for a suspicious situation or 911 for a crime in progress.

1. Consider that the typical "person sitting in a car unknown to the neighborhood" could be transients scouting a neighborhood.
2. Call the police as soon as you observe the suspicious behavior. Try note a tag number and vehicle/persons description if possible. Take pictures if you can.
3. Although there isn't a specific look to transient criminals, they have often times been described as the following:

"The appearance of a transient criminal can generally be described as medium to dark complexioned Caucasian, who are often mistaken as Hispanics. Dark hair and dark eyes are common characteristics. The number of suspects involved can be between two and six. At times, American transient criminal women and children will accompany a male suspect, or two women will work as a team. A look out is often used and usually sits in the vehicle and may sound the car horn if the police are spotted. You should note that transient criminals are experts at false identification and will use a variation of family names and birth dates."

**The vehicles usually have out of state tags, especially Ohio, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.**

1. Women are often times the lookouts.

2. They are known to use walkie talkies.
3. They are known to mark the homes or the streets in front of the homes with some type of marking to denote if the house should be entered by the break-in team and when the homeowner may be absent from the home.
4. If confronted in the home, the burglars usually use a ruse like they are looking for somebody who used to live there and apologize to the homeowner.
5. They also employ the WSSC uniforms and divert the homeowners to the basement while an entry team goes inside and steals jewelry and silver ware.
6. Sometimes multiple females will show up and ask to use a phone. While one is using the phone, the other may go and steal property from within the home while the owner is distracted.
7. One suspect will knock on the front door and if no one answers, they will enter through a side door or rear window.
8. Transients tend to stay in local motels for a few weeks, commit their crimes, and then head back to where they came from.

These criminals are good at what they do and blend in very well. I have spoken to many residents who said that they had seen people sitting in a car in their neighborhood around the time of a burglary but the people didn't arouse suspicion so the police weren't called.

Please help us by paying attention to your neighborhoods and calling us immediately upon observing suspicious behavior, especially if you observe out of state tags on a vehicle. Thanks for your help!

Captain David Falcinelli

Commander - 2ndDistrict"

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Thursday, November 6, 2014

### **Daytime Burglary on E. Irving Street**

*Front door kicked in to gain entry*

At about 5:20 p.m. yesterday (Wednesday, November 5, 2014), the homeowner returned to her home on E. Irving Street between Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road. The house had been locked. When the homeowner opened the front door, she noticed that the front door frame was badly damaged. Once inside the home, she saw evidence of ransacking in three bedrooms. She called the police right away.

Village officers responded immediately and searched the house to make sure that the intruder(s) had left. Investigation revealed that the break-in occurred between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. As of this writing, the only item reported stolen was a laptop computer.

*Residents are urged to keep their homes locked, to activate their alarm systems, and to contact the police immediately if they see or hear anything that makes them suspicious.*

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Wednesday, October 29, 2014

### **Resident Interrupts 2 Burglars This Morning on W. Irving Street**

*Power Tools Stolen; No Injuries, No Property Damage*

At about 11:15 a.m. today (Wednesday, October 29), the resident of a home on W. Irving Street between Connecticut Avenue and Magnolia Parkway was working in his detached garage behind the house. Coincidentally, the resident was expecting a contractor to arrive to do some scheduled work.

The resident returned to the house for a few minutes leaving the overhead door of the 2-car garage open; the garage is fully visible from the street. From inside the house, the resident watched as a silver Dodge Durango SUV with Maryland tags backed into the driveway, then backed completely inside the open garage. Two black males in their 30s wearing dark clothing got out of the SUV.

Thinking that the men were sent by the contractor, the resident walked back to the garage to speak with them. It soon became clear that the men were not sent by the contractor and that something was very wrong. The suspects quickly got back into the silver SUV and drove off in the direction of Connecticut Avenue. A quick inventory revealed that the men had stolen two power saws that were hanging on the garage wall.

The resident called the police and Village officers responded right away. Village police notified the Metropolitan Police (DC) and the Montgomery County Police. A search for the suspects and their car was unsuccessful.

The case is being followed up by detectives from the County Police.

*Residents are urged to keep their homes locked, to activate their alarm systems, and to contact the police immediately if they see or hear anything that makes them suspicious.*

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Monday, October 13, 2014

### **Houses Entered During the Day in Nearby DC Neighborhoods**

The Metropolitan (DC) Police Department reports that, in recent weeks, several residents of upper northwest DC have been the victims of burglaries. The majority of the break-ins have occurred during daylight hours. While some have been accomplished by breaking a window or other forcible means of entry, many of the homes have been left unlocked and the burglar(s) simply opened an unlocked door, walked in and helped themselves to valuables.

Residents are urged to keep their homes locked, to activate their alarm systems, and to contact the police immediately if they see or hear anything that makes them suspicious.

### **5 Unlocked Cars Entered on Hesketh Over the Weekend**

While on patrol shortly after 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning (10/11/14), Officer Timmerman of the Chevy Chase Village Police Department spotted a car in the unit block of Hesketh Street with its trunk open and an interior light on. Upon investigation, Officer Timmerman located four other cars on that same block that appeared to have had their contents disturbed.

After contacting the 4 owners (2 of the cars were owned by the same household), police learned that all of the cars were left unlocked overnight. One of the owners had intentionally left the windows of her car wide open. Nothing was taken from four of the cars; \$2 in coins was taken from one of the vehicles.

***Residents are strongly urged to lock their cars every time they park, and to remove all valuables from their vehicles. When we leave our cars unlocked, thieves will continue to come to the Village in search of property to steal; we must deny them these easy opportunities.***

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**Week ending September 26, 2014**

### **4 Unlocked Cars Entered**

Overnight Monday, 9/22-Tuesday, 9/23, three unlocked cars were entered:

- **5900 block of Cedar Parkway: \$12 in currency and a locking lug nut was stolen. This car was parked in the driveway behind the home.**
- **W. Kirke between Connecticut and Magnolia: Parked on the street, nothing taken.**

- **W. Kirke between Magnolia and Cedar: Parked in the driveway, valuable camera and flash attachment (\$1,750) stolen**

Please remember to do the following:

1. **Lock your car every time you park.**
2. **Activate the car alarm every time you park.**
3. **Leave your front and back porch lights on all night long.**
4. **Call the police whenever you see or hear anything suspicious.**

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**Week ending September 19, 2014**

#### **Airbags Stolen from Two Honda Autos**

On Tuesday, September 16, Village police received a report of two vehicles being entered overnight (Monday/Tuesday) on to section of Primrose Street between Connecticut Avenue and Brookville Road. The steering wheel airbags from two Honda automobiles were stolen. The vehicles were parked on the street in front of the residence and there were no signs of forced entry into the vehicles.

The DC police have had 6 of these incidents recently, and the common factor seems to be that Honda vehicles are the prevalent target.

#### **Unlocked Car Entered on West Melrose, Property Taken**

Overnight Monday, September 15-Tuesday, September 16, a thief entered an unlocked car parked on the street on West Melrose Street. An iPod and cash were stolen.

#### **Unlocked Car Entered on the 3900 block of Oliver Street, Property Taken**

Overnight Tuesday, September 16-Wednesday, September 17, a thief entered an unlocked car parked in the driveway of a residence on Oliver Street. A GPS and 3 iPhone chargers were stolen.

Please remember to do the following:

- 1. Lock your car every time you park.**
- 2. Activate the car alarm every time you park.**
- 3. Leave your front and back porch lights on all night long.**
- 4. Call the police whenever you see or hear anything suspicious.**

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Tuesday, September 16, 2014

### **Airbags Stolen From 2 Vehicles**

On Tuesday, September 16, Village police received a report of two vehicles being entered overnight (Monday/Tuesday). The airbags from the vehicles were stolen. There were no signs of forced entry into the vehicles. The vehicles were parked on the street in the first unit block of Primrose Street.

Please do not become complacent, and remember to do the following:

1. Lock your car every time you park.
2. Activate the car alarm every time you park.
3. Leave your front and back porch lights on all night.
4. Call the police whenever you see or hear anything suspicious.

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Wednesday, August 27, 2014

### **Attempt Burglary in the Unit Block of East Lenox**

*A glass panel was broken; no entry gained and nothing stolen*

At about 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2014, the owners of a home in the unit block of E. Lenox returned from a vacation and discovered that one of the six glass panels in the lower sash of a side window had been broken in an apparent attempt to gain entry into the home. The residents called the Village police right away.

Lt. Dasilva and Officer Hrnjak from the Village Police Department arrived within minutes and quickly determined that there was no intruder in the home. Upon close inspection, the

homeowners could tell that nothing was out of place within the home, and the officers found the house secure with the exception of the small (approximately 5" x 7") panel of broken glass described above.

The would-be burglar apparently broke the panel of glass and was unable to unlock the latch. The homeowners had done a commendable job of securing their home: they had pinned their windows shut so that they could not be opened, and they had installed an audible alarm that likely scared the intruder away.

Residents are advised to:

1. Keep doors and windows locked even when at home.
2. Activate your alarm system if you have one.
3. Trim shrubs and other plants so that they do not provide a safe haven for burglars.
4. Call the police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

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Week ending August 15

**4 Unlocked Cars Entered and 1 Bike Stolen  
Nothing taken from 2 of them; loose change taken from 2**

On Sunday, August 10, Village police received four reports of unlocked cars being entered overnight (Saturday/Sunday) and one bike stolen from an unlocked garage. In each case, the interiors of the cars were rifled through, only one resident reported anything missing (loose change from two cars).

Thefts occurred at the following locations:

- 5800 block of Connecticut Avenue (1 car)
- Unit block of West Irving Street (2 cars)
- 6100 block of Nevada Avenue (1 car)
- 100 block of East Melrose Street (1 stolen bike)

Please remember to do the following:

1. Lock your car every time you park.
2. Remove all valuables from your car.
3. Leave your front and back porch lights on all night long.
4. Call the police whenever you see or hear anything suspicious.

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Friday, August 8, 2014

JOHNSON, Sean Daniel

Arrested for theft

**County Police Arrest Theft Suspect**

*He is believed to be responsible for a July 22 theft in the Village*

On Tuesday, July 22, 2014, a construction crew was doing road work on Connecticut Avenue at Newlands Street, and they left their work truck unlocked. One of the workers noticed a man walk away from the truck and get into a black Chrysler Sebring bearing a temporary license plate. When the workers returned to the truck, they found that it had been rifled through, and an iPhone 5 had been stolen. Officers responded right away, but the car and suspect had already left the area.

Meanwhile, Detective Britta Thomas of the Montgomery County Police identified a suspect in numerous daytime theft-from-auto cases at area country clubs and other locations. Detective Thomas alerted area police agencies of her suspect by sending images of him and his car that were obtained from security cameras where the suspect was committing his crimes.

Upon reading the alert, Village officer James Timmerman noted similarities between Detective Thomas's suspect and the thief responsible for the iPhone theft. Village officers began to communicate with Detective Thomas, and on August 1, 2014, Detective Thomas arrested Sean D. Johnson of the 100 block of Kennedy Street, NW, Washington, DC with multiple counts of theft. Mr. Johnson is currently out on bond.

If you see him or his black Chrysler Sebring in the community, please call Village police immediately.

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Week ending July 25

**Right-to-Life Protesters Expected on Tuesday, July 29**

On Tuesday, July 29, 2014, a right-to-life group, Defend Life, will be exercising their 1st Amendment rights by displaying large, graphic signs on the sidewalk along northbound

Connecticut Avenue from 4pm-6:30pm. Chief Fitzgerald and several Village officers will be on scene keeping the peace and ensuring traffic and pedestrian safety.

The images on the signs can be upsetting to some, and young children may not understand them. If you typically use northbound Connecticut Avenue in your travels, you may want to consider an alternative route on July 29 between 4pm and 6:30pm.

### **Daytime Theft of iPhone from Unlocked Construction Vehicle**

On Tuesday, July 22, 2014, a construction crew was doing road work on Connecticut Avenue at Newlands Street, and they left their work truck unlocked. One of the workers noticed a man walk away from the truck and get into a black Chrysler Sebring bearing a temporary license plate. The man was described as a black male of unknown age, 160-170 pounds, wearing a white T-shirt and dark low-hanging blue jeans exposing red boxer-style underwear.

When the workers returned to the truck, they found that it had been rifle through, and an iPhone 5 had been stolen. Officers responded right away, but the car and suspect had already left the area.

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July 11, 2014

### **Right-to-Life Protesters Expected on Tuesday, July 29**

On Tuesday, July 29, 2014, a right-to-life group, Defend Life, will be exercising their 1st Amendment rights by displaying large, graphic signs on the sidewalk along northbound Connecticut Avenue from 4pm-6:30pm. Chief Fitzgerald and several Village officers will be on scene keeping the peace and ensuring traffic and pedestrian safety.

The images on the signs can be upsetting to some, and young children may not understand them. If you typically use northbound Connecticut Avenue in your travels, you may want to consider an alternative route on July 29 between 4pm and 6:30pm.

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July 7, 2014

### **Images of Would-Be Burglar Captured by Security Camera**

*Alert Neighbor Scares Off Suspicious Man*

On Saturday, July 5, 2014 at approximately 9:15 a.m., a black male who appeared to be in his 20's entered a fenced back yard in the 5400 block of Grove Street. Unbeknownst to the intruder, the next-door neighbor watched as the suspicious man removed his shirt and nervously moved around the back near the rear of the home. Additionally, security cameras at the home where the suspect lurked captured much of his activity.

The alert neighbor decided to call the police right away, and he got up to find the phone. The neighbor's movement was apparently noticed by the intruder, as the suspect put his shirt back on, peered toward the neighbor's home, and at first walked, then ran away from the house toward Western Avenue.

Officer Timmerman of the Village Police Department was on the scene within 90 seconds, but the suspect was already gone.

The images below were taken from the homeowner's security camera footage. The man appears to be approximately six feet tall, 165-185 pounds, and he is wearing white sneakers, blue jeans, a white T-shirt bearing lettering and a logo in dark blue or black, and he had close-cropped hair.

Kudos to the alert neighbor in this case; he undoubtedly interrupted a crime. Residents are urged to keep their doors and windows locked, to keep their outside lights on all night long, and above all, to call the police immediately whenever something seems suspicious. Village officers will respond right away and investigate.

Please view the 3 short videos by clicking on the below links.

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)

The 4 images below were taken from the video. Please contact the Village Police Department if you can identify the individual.







Week ending June 13

### **3 Unlocked Cars Entered Monday Night (June 9-June 10)**

- **100 block of Grafton** (between Cedar and Kirkside): Car was unlocked and parked in the driveway; \$4 change stolen
- **First block of W. Irving** (between Connecticut and Magnolia): Car was unlocked and parked on the street; owner's pouch containing owner's manual and other documents taken and recovered nearby
- **Second block of W. Irving** (between Magnolia and Cedar): Car was unlocked and parked in the driveway; another owner's pouch taken and recovered

Residents are reminded to lock their cars every time they park; doing so will deny opportunities to these thieves.

### **Pattern of Daytime House Break-Ins in Nearby DC Neighborhoods**

The below is an unedited message from Michael Reese, Commander of the 2nd District of the Metropolitan Police Department. To help you understand the relevance of his message, it is important for you to know that Chevy Chase Village abuts two of DC's Police Service Areas (PSAs): 201 and 202. In short, the DC neighborhoods closest to the Village are experiencing a problem with house break-ins during the daytime. The point of entry is a rear door or window. Commander Reese's message follows:

*The Second District has an overall 7% decrease in burglary offenses year to date versus last year. Even though there has been a decrease a discernible pattern has been discovered in the upper end of the Second District (PSAs 201,202,203). The offenses are occurring during the day time hours Monday thru Friday (between 10 am and 5pm). The point of entry is through a rear door or window. Most of the residences have a privacy fence or heavy shrubs that help shield the perpetrator(s) when entry is gained. There has been general lookout of a black male about 6 feet in height possibly in his late teens. Several residents have seen a person in the rear of some of the locations just prior to or right after the offense has occurred. Unfortunately there was no 911 call and this information was learned during follow up investigations. I would like to encourage residents to call 911 when an unknown person(s) is in the rear of residences or when something just does not seem right. Usually residents have a pulse on what is going in their neighborhoods and tips usually help us make arrests. Additional resources have been dedicated to help address this issue. We are also working with surrounding jurisdictions to ensure that all information is shared and current.*

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**June 9, 2014**

### **Pattern of Daytime House Break-Ins in Nearby DC Neighborhoods**

The below is an unedited message from Michael Reese, Commander of the 2nd District of the Metropolitan Police Department. To help you understand the relevance of his message, it is important for you to know that Chevy Chase Village abuts two of DC's Police Service Areas (PSAs): 201 and 202. In short, the DC neighborhoods closest to the Village are experiencing a problem with house break-ins during the daytime. The point of entry is a rear door or window. Commander Reese's message follows:

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Residents are advised to:

1. Keep doors and windows locked even when you are at home.
2. Activate your alarm system if you have one.
3. Trim shrubs and other plants so that they do not provide a safe haven for burglars.
4. Call the police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

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### **Week of May 30, 2014**

#### **Unlocked Car Entered in Alley Behind 5600 Block of Western Avenue**

This morning (Friday, May 30), a resident of the 5600 block of Western Avenue discovered that someone had entered his unlocked car during the night. Nothing was taken, but the car had been rummaged through. The car had been parked behind the house in the alley.

Residents are reminded to lock their cars every time they park, remove all valuables from their vehicle, and to leave front and rear outside lights on all night long.

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### **May 19, 2014**

#### **Armed Robbery (knife) in DC on Livingston Street Near Connecticut Avenue**

The Chevy Chase Village Police Department just learned that on Friday, May 16 at approximately 11:25 p.m., a pedestrian was robbed at knifepoint in the District of Columbia by two assailants on Livingston Street just off of Connecticut Avenue (about 5 blocks south of Chevy Chase Circle). The below is an unedited summary from Lt. John Hedgecock of the Metropolitan Police Department:

The offense took place on the sidewalk close to the intersection with Connecticut Ave. Two individuals approached the lone male victim brandishing a knife demanding money. The victim complied relinquishing his wallet. The suspects were last seen fleeing on foot north on Connecticut Ave. No injuries to the victim.

Suspect #1: B/M, early 20's, short cut hair, wearing all dark clothing brandishing a knife. Suspect #2: B/M, early 20's, described as having bushy hair, wearing a black jacket and blue jeans.

Anyone with information concerning this offense is asked to contact the Second District Detectives Office on 202-730-1903, or the Command Information Center on 202-727-9099.

Residents are reminded to use the following strategies to reduce their chances of being robbed as they walk:

- Avoid walking alone whenever possible.
- Walk with your head up and with purpose.
- Constantly scan the area around you; remain alert and aware of your surroundings.
- Avoid being distracted by your electronic devices.
- If you sense something is not right, trust your instinct. Immediately go run if you have to into a nearby public place such as a store or restaurant, call the police and describe what made you suspicious.

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**For the week of May 16, 2014**

### **Attempted Burglary in the 5500 block of Montgomery Street**

In the early morning hours of Tuesday, May 13, residents of a home in the 5500 block of Montgomery Street (the block nearest the Buffer Zone) discovered fresh pry marks on the French doors at the rear of their house. Between 1:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m., someone used a pry tool in an unsuccessful effort to break into the home. The doors were securely locked, and the homeowners had activated their security alarm system. The door was never opened and the burglar did not gain entry into the home.

This is the second burglary/attempt burglary in the Village in a little over two weeks. In both cases, the thief/thieve(s) approached the back of the home and entered (or attempted to enter) through a rear door.

Residents are reminded to do the following:

1. Keep your front AND REAR outside lights on all night long.
2. Activate your alarm system if you have one.
3. Call the police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

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**May 13, 2014**

### **Attempted Burglary in the 5500 block of Montgomery Street**

This morning, residents of a home in the 5500 block of Montgomery Street (the block nearest the Buffer Zone) discovered fresh pry marks on the French doors at the rear of their house. Between 1:00 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. today, someone used a pry tool in an unsuccessful effort to break into the home. The doors were securely locked, and the homeowners had activated their security alarm system. The door was never opened and the burglar did not gain entry into the home.

This is the second burglary/attempt burglary in the Village in a little over two weeks. In both cases, the thief/thieve(s) approached the back of the home and entered (or attempted to enter) through a rear door.

**Residents are reminded to do the following:**

1. Keep your front AND REAR outside lights on all night long.
2. Activate your alarm system if you have one.
3. Call the police *immediately* if you see or hear anything suspicious.

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**Week of May 2, 2014**

**House Break-in in the Unit Block of Grafton Street**

The residents of a home in the unit block of Grafton Street (between Chevy Chase Circle and Cedar Parkway) were away for the weekend. On Sunday, April 27, shortly before noon, a friend of the homeowner entered the house to drop something off, and she discovered a broken pane of glass in the rear kitchen door. The burglar apparently broke the pane then reached through and unlocked the door using the thumb-turn deadbolt. Items of value were stolen from inside the home.

**Residents are reminded to do the following:**

1. Sign up for a house check prior to going away. Village police officers will check your home while you are gone.
2. Put your outside lights on a timer and make sure your front and back porch lights remain on all night long.
3. Install a double cylinder deadbolt (the type that uses a key on the inside and the outside) whenever the lock is installed within reach of a window.
4. Activate your alarm system if you have one.
5. Consider providing a house key to the Police Department so that we can enter your house in an emergency.
6. Call the police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

**Steer Clear of Illegal Tree Workers**

*Do Not Hire Tree Workers Who Knock on Your Door and Offer Services*

State law requires persons who do tree work to be licensed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is a crime for anyone to offer or perform such services without being a Licensed Tree Expert (LTE)--even if they are licensed to do similar work in another state. Virtually all of the tree workers in the region are aware of this, yet time and again, 'tree experts' from Virginia or elsewhere drive through the Village offering their services. **Do not hire these folks.** Here is what we have learned:

\* The LTE certification ensures that the contractor has received training in safe tree practice. It also protects homeowners in the event of an accident or damage to property--yours or your neighbor's.

\* Some of these workers have defrauded residents--especially the elderly--by charging exorbitant rates for minimal work. County police investigators have seen cases where homeowners have paid thousands of dollars for little or no work at all.

\* Some of these workers have had active arrest warrants and significant criminal histories.

\* They will often assure residents that the proper permits have been obtained when that is not true. Remember, it is ultimately the resident's responsibility to obtain the proper tree removal permit from the Village.

If anyone offers to perform tree work at your home, please call the Village Police Department immediately. We will respond and investigate.

If you want to remove a tree that is on your property, the first thing that you must do is contact Ms. Ellen Sands at the Village Hall. She will explain the 2-step process to you which will involve an inspection by the Village arborist, and then the issuance of a permit. She can assist you in navigating this process.

Finally, before you hire any tree service company, we recommend that you first verify that the contractor is a Licensed Tree Expert as certified by the DNR. The web address below will take you directly to the page on DNR's website that lists all licensed tree companies in Maryland. We also recommend getting competitive estimates before making your final decision.

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programapps/newtreeexpert.asp>

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**April 27, 2014**

### **House Break-in in the Unit Block of Grafton Street**

The residents of a home in the unit block of Grafton Street (between Chevy Chase Circle and Cedar Parkway) were away for the weekend. This morning (Sunday, April 27), shortly before noon, a friend of the homeowner entered the house to drop something off, and she discovered a broken pane of glass in the rear kitchen door. The burglar apparently broke the pane then reached through and unlocked the door using the thumb-turn deadbolt. Items of value were stolen from inside the home. The homeowners had not requested the police to check their house for them while they were away.

**Residents are reminded to do the following:**

1. Sign up for a house check prior to going away. Village police officers will check your home while you are gone.
2. Put your outside lights on a timer and make sure your front and back porch lights remain on all night long.
3. Install a double cylinder deadbolt (the type that uses a key on the inside and the outside) whenever the lock is installed within reach of a window.
4. Activate your alarm system if you have one.
5. Consider providing a house key to the Police Department so that we can enter your house in an emergency.
6. Call the police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious.

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**Week of April 4, 2014**

### **Recent Series of Violent Crimes in the Area has the Village on Alert**

*Police have made arrests in several of the incidents, but residents should remain vigilant*

There have been several violent crimes in our area recently. Although only one of them occurred within Chevy Chase Village, others have occurred so close to our community that the Village Police Department feels obligated to inform our residents to raise awareness to these events.

There have been five incidents that are of concern:

1. **March 13: Carjacking in the 100 block of E. Melrose Street @ 10:15 p.m.** (Chevy Chase Village). Arrests were made within two days by the US Park Police and Metropolitan Police (MPD) following a car chase which ended in NE Washington)
2. **March 19: Home invasion robbery in the 3700 block of Oliver Street, NW at 1:00 p.m.** (DC). MPD officers spotted the suspect right after the crime and arrested him after a foot chase.
3. **March 25: Carjacking in the 3300 block of Runnymede Place @ 7:15 p.m.** (DC).
4. **April 2: Carjacking near the intersection of Connecticut and Northampton @ 2:50 p.m.** (DC). MPD detectives arrested a juvenile for this event and the one below on 4/3. Others suspects remain at large.
5. **April 2: Forcible robbery in the 3200 block of Oliver Street, NW at 8:00 p.m.** (DC). MPD arrested a juvenile for this crime (see #4 above).

### **Crime Avoidance Tips:**

Police recommend that you scan the area before approaching your car. As you near your car, have your keys/remote control in your hand, **unlock the car just prior to reaching your car, get in quickly and lock the doors immediately.** Do not loiter once inside your car; drive away promptly.

Village residents are reminded to exercise caution at all times prior to opening your front door in response to a knock or the ringing of a doorbell. **Keep your house locked when you are at**

**home, and talk through the locked door to ascertain the identity and purpose of the person on the other side.** If you are suspicious or if you simply are not interested in dealing with the person, do not unlock or open the door. Tell the person you are not interested, and call the Village Police Department at 301-654-7300. Village officers will respond right away and investigate.

**If you spot anyone or anything suspicious, retreat to a public place and call the police immediately.** If you are accosted, do not resist. Comply with demands and call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe to do so.

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**April 4, 2014**

### **UPDATE: DC Police Arrest Juvenile in Yesterday's Carjackings and Robbies**

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) issued the below press release last night (April 3, 2014). MPD continues to look for other suspects, so residents are to remain cautious. Kudos to the MPD detectives who have been working these cases.

#### ***Suspect Arrested in Carjackings and Robberies***

*(Washington DC) - Detectives from the Metropolitan Police Department announced today that a suspect has been arrested in connection with multiple carjackings and robberies that occurred in the Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts on Wednesday, April 2, 2014.*

#### ***Second District:***

*\*At approximately 2:50 pm, a female complainant was entering her vehicle in the 3700 block of Northampton Street NW, when a suspect grabbed her, threw her to the ground and took her vehicle. The vehicle was later recovered.*

*\*At approximately 8:05 pm, a female complainant was in the 3200 block of Oliver Street NW, when two male subjects punched her, knocked her to the ground, and took her property.*

#### ***Fifth District:***

*\*At approximately 9:35 pm, a male complainant was in the 1800 block of Kearney Street NE when two male subjects punched the complainant, knocked him to the ground and took his property.*

*\*At approximately 9:45 pm, a female complainant was in the 3100 block of 10th Street NE, when she was approached by two suspects who sprayed her with pepper spray and took her property.*

#### ***Fourth District:***

*\*At approximately 10 pm, a female complainant was in the unit block of Van Buren Street, NW, when two male suspects approached her, threatened her and took her vehicle. The vehicle was recovered a short distance away.*

***Through the investigation by detectives from the Second, Fourth and Fifth Districts, a juvenile male was arrested on the afternoon of Thursday, April 3, 2014 and charged with two counts of Carjacking and three counts of Robbery Force and Violence.***

**\*\*\***

**April 3, 2014**

**Update: Car Recovered from Carjacking in DC at Connecticut Avenue and Northampton Street**

*DC Police believe that the car was used in the Oliver Street (DC) robbery last evening as well as in other robberies in the city*

Lt. Michelle Charon of the Metropolitan Police Department's 2nd District posted the below message on the DC community listserve today. The unedited content of Lt. Caron's email follows:

*Good afternoon everyone:*

*Wanted to give you more information on the events that occurred yesterday.*

*Yesterday, at approximately 1450 hours (2:50 pm) in the 3700 block of Northampton Street, NW, a female was getting into her vehicle when she was grabbed by a male (race unknown). The male threw the female to the ground and took her vehicle. At approximately 2005 hours (8:05 pm) in the 3200 block of Oliver Street, NW a woman was standing at the rear of her vehicle when she was approached by two black males. They attempted to take her vehicle, but she did not comply. They then pushed her to the ground and took her purse. An uninvolved citizen attempted to stop the two suspects, but they got away when they jumped into a small red sedan (it is believed to be the same red sedan that was carjacked on Northampton).*

*The lookout for the carjacking is a male, unknown race, light complexion, 5'8-5'9, short black hair, wearing a green camouflage jacket and gray pants. The lookout for the robbery is Suspect (1): B/M, 20 years of age, 5'10", short hair, wearing a red jacket, and dark jeans; Suspect (2): B/M, 20 years of age, 5'10", wearing dark clothing.*

*This vehicle was used in a couple other robberies in the city last night. One confirmed in the Fourth District, one confirmed in the Fifth District and possible a few others. The car was recovered in the Fourth District after the suspects got out and attempted to carjack another citizen, but were unsuccessful. The vehicle was sent to the Consolidated Forensics Lab for complete forensic processing.*

*The cases have been discussed in detail and the solvability factors are very good. The investigation is being handled by citywide Detectives. I want to assure you that MPD is working diligently to get all the information gathered as quickly as possible to bring these criminals to justice.*

*These are scary incidents and we are taking them seriously. As soon as I have more information, I will post. Please be aware of your surroundings and if approached, please comply with what is asked of you. There is no need to try and fight someone who is intent on obtaining your property.*

*Thank you!*

*Lieutenant Michelle J. Caron  
PSA 201/Administration Office  
Metropolitan Police Department  
Second District  
3320 Idaho Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
202-439-4529 - Cell  
202-715-7353 - Desk  
202-715-7300 - Station*

**Crime Avoidance Tips:**

The Village Police Department recommends that you scan the area before approaching your car. As you near your car, have your keys/remote control in your hand, unlock the car just prior to reaching your car, get in quickly and lock the doors immediately. Do not loiter once inside your car; drive away promptly.

**If you spot anyone or anything suspicious, retreat to a public place and call the police immediately.** If you are accosted, do not resist. Comply with demands and call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe for you to do so.

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**April 3, 2014**

**Forcible Robbery in DC in the 3200 block of Oliver Street, NW**

Chief Fitzgerald received the below email from Lieutenant John Hedgecock of the Metropolitan Police Department's 2nd District at 11:50 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2014. The location of this robbery is near the intersection of Oliver Street and Nebraska Avenue not far from the Village. The unedited content of Lieutenant Hedgecock's email follows:

*On Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at approximately 8:00 p.m., a lone female victim was standing at the rear of her parked vehicle in the 3200 block of Oliver St., NW. At this moment she observed two male subjects in the middle of the street advancing towards her. Upon reaching her, one subject demanded the victims property. The victim refused whereupon the subjects forcibly threw her to the ground. The subjects then forcible removed her purse and fled on foot. The subjects were last seen entering a small red four door vehicle within the block. The vehicle was last seen fleeing the location eastbound on Oliver Street.*

*Suspect Information: #1 - B/M, approximately 6'0, med. Complexion, wearing a red long sleeved shirt which may have been a Polo type shirt. #2 - B/M, 6'2", dark complexion wearing a dark jacket and dark jeans.*

There have been several violent crimes in our area recently. Although only one of them occurred within Chevy Chase Village, others have occurred so close to our community that the Village Police Department feels obligated to inform our residents to raise awareness of these events.

**Crime Avoidance Tips:**

Police recommend that you scan the area before approaching your car. As you near your car, have your keys/remote in your hand, unlock the car just prior to reaching your car, get in quickly and lock the doors immediately. Do not loiter once inside your car; drive away promptly.

**If you spot anyone or anything suspicious, retreat to a public place and call the police immediately.** If you are accosted, do not resist. Comply with the demands and call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe for you to do so.

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**April 2, 2014**

**Carjacking in DC at Connecticut Avenue and Northampton Street**

*This is the 3rd carjacking in our area within the last 3 weeks*

Chief Fitzgerald received the below email from Captain Melvin Gresham of the Metropolitan Police Department's 2nd District at 10:36 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2014. The location of this carjacking is 2 blocks south of Chevy Chase Circle on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, DC. The unedited content of Captain Gresham's email follows:

*On Wednesday, April 02, 2014, at approximately 2:50pm, a motorist was in the process of entering her vehicle in the area of Connecticut Avenue and North Hampton Street NW, when she was accosted by a subject. During this interaction, the subject grabbed her arm and demanded the keys to her vehicle. After forcibly taking the keys from the victim, the suspect threw her to the ground and fled the area in the victim's vehicle. The vehicle was described as a 2008 Red 4 door Chevy Aveo, bearing DC registration CY4113. The suspect was described as a light complexioned male, 25 years of age and approximately 5'7" to 5'8". He has black hair and his ethnicity was unknown.*

This is the 3rd carjacking in our area within 3 weeks:

1. March 13: 100 block of E. Melrose Street @ 10:15 p.m. (Chevy Chase Village)
2. March 25: 3300 block of Runnymede Place @ 7:15 p.m. (DC)
3. April 2: Connecticut at Northampton @ 2:15 p.m. (DC)

Village Police recommend that you scan the area before approaching your car. As you near your car, have your keys/remote control in your hand, unlock the car just prior to reaching your car, get in quickly and lock the doors immediately. Do not loiter once inside your car; drive away promptly.

If you spot anyone or anything suspicious, retreat to a public place and call the police immediately. If you are accosted, do not resist. Comply with demands and call 9-1-1 as soon as it is safe for you to do so.

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### **March 26, 2014**

#### **Armed Robbery on Runnymede Place, NW occurred at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

Victim was on her porch and was approached by two masked men armed with a handgun; 2014 Honda CRV taken

Chief Fitzgerald received the below information from Lt. Alan Hill of the Metropolitan Police Department. The information is a verbatim copy of Lt. Hill's email. Be advised that the location of the below armed robbery is very close to the intersection of Broad Branch Road and Western Avenue.

*Robbery (Gun): 3300 block of Runnymede Place, NW*

The Complainant reported while on her porch she was approached by (2) B/M's. Suspect (1) brandished a dark handgun and made a demand for property. Taken was personal property belonging to the complainant and a blue 2014 Honda CRV, bearing DC tag. Lookout is for Suspect (1): B/M 5'11"-6'0", 20-22 years of age, medium complexion, wearing a red mask, blue coat, and armed with a dark handgun; Suspect (2): B/M, 5'11"-6'0", wearing a black mask, and red coat.

\*\*\*

### **March 21, 2014**

#### **Armed Daytime Home Invasion in DC on Oliver Street**

#### **DC Officers make quick arrest, recover gun and stolen property**

The below is excerpted from an email sent by Lt. John Hedgecock of the 2nd District of the Metropolitan Police Department. MPDC officers did an outstanding job arresting an armed and dangerous subject.

*At approximately 1255 hours on March 19, the defendant knocked on the door of the residence located in the 3700 block Oliver St., NW. The 86 year old male resident answered the door. The defendant asked if he needed any yard work done. The resident replied No. The defendant then forced his way in the partially open door and promptly slammed the male resident to the floor. Hearing the commotion, the 81 year old wife comes to the door where she's promptly met by the defendant who places a handgun to her head and demands to know where the money is. The defendant then places the handgun to the male victims temple and removes his wallet. He then escorts the male to the basement stairwell where he tosses him down the stairs and locks the doors behind him. He then returns to the female victim placing the weapon to her forehead demanding to know where the money is. She takes him to an upper bedroom where she retrieves an envelope containing cash and relinquishes it to him. He then flees via the front door.*

*Upon the initial responding units broadcasting a lookout, Officer Parr, who, as always, was on foot his beat in the 5400 block of Connecticut Ave. Officer Parr observed a male matching the lookout standing at the bus stop reading the posted bus schedule. As Officer Parr made eye contact with the male, he began to hurriedly walk, then run to the rear of the block. Parr gave pursuit and with the help of Officer Santos, apprehended the subject in the rear. The victims positively identified the defendant and the property, to include the handgun, was recovered.*

**Defendant:**

Hudgens, Cochise Darnell  
B/M, 57 years old of Washington, DC

Village residents are reminded to exercise caution at all times prior to opening your front door in response to a knock or the ringing of a doorbell. Keep your house locked when you are at home, and talk through the locked door to ascertain the identity and purpose of the person on the other side. If you are suspicious or if you simply are not interested in dealing with the person on the other side, do not unlock or open the door. Tell the person you are not interested, and call the Village Police Department at 301-654-7300. Village officers will respond right away and investigate.

**Update: Car Recovered from the March 13 Carjacking on E. Melrose**

***Following a car chase, five people arrested in Washington, DC***

Montgomery County Police detectives have informed the Chevy Chase Village Police Department that the 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee that was stolen at gunpoint from a resident on E. Melrose Street on March 13 has been recovered following a dramatic inter-jurisdictional car chase which ended with gunfire.

The stolen car was spotted by officers in Prince Georges County on Saturday, March 15, and the car, occupied by five persons, fled into the District of Columbia where the US Park Police and the Metropolitan Police became involved. The chase ended when the car left the roadway in northeast DC. Shots were fired, and police officers wounded three of the five occupants. No police officers were injured. All five people were arrested.

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police Department are working with the other police agencies to identify the person(s) responsible for the carjacking in the Village.

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## **Week of March 14, 2014**

### **Update: Carjacking in the 100 block of East Melrose Street**

Last night (Thursday, March 13) at 10:17 p.m., a resident was parked in her driveway when she was approached by a 20-25 year old black male wearing a black knit hat and black clothing. The black male displayed a black handgun and took the resident's 2014 black Jeep Grand Cherokee. The resident was uninjured. The subject and the vehicle were last seen going west on East Melrose Street toward Connecticut Avenue. During the carjacking there was a small black unknown vehicle that was seen leaving the area with the stolen vehicle.

Chevy Chase Village and Montgomery County officers responded immediately. The description and tag number of the stolen Jeep was shared promptly with surrounding law enforcement agencies, and as of this writing, the car has not been recovered and there have been no arrests.

The Major Crimes Division--Robbery Section of the Montgomery County Police Department is conducting the follow-up investigation of this crime. Chief Fitzgerald has been in direct contact with the commander of that division, and we will provide our residents with updates when information is developed that we can share.

The Village Police Department urges anyone with information about this case to call the Montgomery County Police at (301) 279-8000.

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## **March 13, 2014**

### **Carjacking on the 100 Block of East Melrose Street**

This evening at 10:17 p.m. (Thursday) a resident was parked in her driveway when she was approached by a 20-25 year old black male wearing a black knit hat and black clothing. The black male displayed a black handgun and took the resident's 2014 black Jeep Grand Cherokee. The resident was uninjured. The subject and the vehicle were last seen going west on East Melrose Street toward Connecticut Avenue. During the carjacking there was a small black unknown vehicle that was seen leaving the area with the stolen vehicle.

This is the extent of the information that we have at this time. Anyone with information is asked to call the Montgomery County Police at (301) 279-8000.

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**Week of February 7, 2014**

### **Persistent Phone Scammer Posing as Gas Company Rep**

Recently, after repeatedly ignoring an incoming phone call from the same unknown number, a Village resident finally decided to answer the phone. The male caller told the resident that he could save her 10% on her energy bill. He then asked the resident for her address and her Washington Gas account number.

The Resident grew suspicious and did not provide any information to the caller. She then turned the tables on the caller and smartly asked him several questions regarding his identity and that of his employer. The caller quickly hung up on the resident. Resident 1, scammer 0.

Such scams are rampant nationwide. The Chevy Chase Village Police Department urges everyone to use the following precautions whenever they are dealing with someone over the phone whose identity is uncertain:

- \* Consider ignoring calls from unfamiliar phone numbers. You don't have to answer the phone at all; let those calls go to voicemail and decide later whether or not you want to call back.
- \* Don't give out information. Period. If a caller asks you for any personal or financial information, assume that they are a crook.
- \* Never allow yourself to be pressured into making an immediate decision.
- \* Hang up. You don't have to be polite to a crook.
- \* Report suspicious calls to the police.

To learn more about avoiding phone fraud, go to [www.ftc.gov/phonefraud](http://www.ftc.gov/phonefraud).

### **Parking Law Refresher**

The Chevy Chase Village Police Department receives numerous parking complaints every week, and we write many parking tickets. While some who park illegally are commuters who violate the parking restriction signs, others are our own residents who may be unaware of some important parking laws that directly affect traffic and pedestrian safety. Below is a short list of parking laws that apply everywhere in Montgomery County--including Chevy Chase Village:

It is illegal to park:

- \*Within 30 feet of a stop sign
- \*Within 35 feet of an intersection
- \*Within 5 feet of a driveway opening
- \*More than 1 foot from the curb

- \*Less than 2 feet from the front or rear of another parked vehicle
- \*In a direction other than the flow of traffic (a.k.a. 'left wheels to the curb')

Please share the above with the other drivers in your household, and we ask for your voluntary compliance with our parking laws.

\*\*\*

**Week of January 24, 2014**

### **11 Unlocked Cars Entered This Week**

*Nothing taken from 8 of them; loose change taken from 3*

On Tuesday, January 21, Village police issued a Crime Alert informing residents that the police had received five reports of unlocked cars being entered overnight (Monday/Tuesday). Soon after the message went out, several additional reports came in. All told, eleven unlocked cars were entered. In each case, the interiors of the cars were left in disarray, yet only three residents reported anything missing (loose change from only three cars). After rifling through the contents of the cars, the suspect(s) were careful to close the car doors quietly; in several cases, car doors were left slightly ajar.

All of the attempted thefts occurred on the west side of the Village in the following locations:

- \* 5500 and 5600 blocks of Center Street (4 cars)
- \* 3900 and 4000 blocks of Oliver Street (4 cars)
- \* 5600 block of Kirkside Drive (2 cars)
- \* Unit block of Grafton Street

This is a crime of opportunity, and you can dramatically reduce the opportunity by locking your car doors. In early 2013, Village officers went door to door distributing crime prevention flyers. Please, please do not become complacent, and remember to do the following:

- 1. Lock your car every time you park.**
- 2. Remove all valuables from your car.**
- 3. Leave your front and back porch lights on all night long.**
- 4. Call the police whenever you see or hear anything suspicious.**

### **Remember: Don't Drive Distracted**

*"Hands free" means just that: You can't use your hands to hold your phoneâ€”  
even when it's on speaker*

It seems that some drivers just can't help it they just HAVE TO make or answer that call or read that text while they're driving. It seems that it's very much like a drug addiction.

When that smart phone vibrates or makes a noise, some folks have no will power they go to the phone the way Pavlov's dog reacted to the ringing of the bell. If this describes you, STOP IT! You are endangering yourself and others. It's selfish, it's unsafe, and by the way, it's illegal.

If you cannot trust yourself to refrain from handling your smart phone while you are in control of a vehicle, then either turn it off or put it out of reach before you start driving. If you absolutely must communicate using your smart phone while you are in your car, then stop in a safe place (a parking lot or a side street NOT in a place that will impede traffic), put the car in park and make/receive that communication. Please.

\*\*\*

**January 17, 2014**

**Urgent Crime Alert:  
Armed Robbery in DC on Broad Branch Road**

The Village Police Department has learned that there was an armed robbery very close to Chevy Chase Village on Wednesday evening, January 15. The below is an unedited email from Lt. Charland of the Metropolitan Police Department's Second District:

The Second District experienced a robbery hold up gun tonight in the 6100 block of Broad Branch Road, NW at approximately 9:30PM.

The victim reports that after parking their vehicle, they were approached by a suspect who displayed a handgun and demanded the victim's money and keys. After being robbed of these items, the suspect then stole the complainant's vehicle and fled the scene. There were no injuries as it relates to this robbery.

The suspect was described as a Black male (5'10" ) wearing a dark colored ski mask, puffy style jacket and dark pants. He was last seen leaving the area in the victims vehicle. Anyone with information regarding/ witnessing this crime is directed to call the Metropolitan Police Department on 202-727-9099.

Lieutenant A. Charland  
Metropolitan Police Department  
Washington, DC  
2nd District, PSA 201  
202-715-7325

Village residents are urged to visually scan the surrounding area and remain alert as they enter or exit their vehicles. If something doesn't feel right, trust that feeling and call the

Village Police Department at 301-654-7300; we will dispatch an officer to investigate right away. In an emergency, call 9-1-1 as always.

\*\*\*

**January 10, 2014**

### **Attempted Burglary on Kirkside Drive**

At about 4:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 4, Village and County police officers responded to the report of an attempted burglary in the 5600 block of Kirkside Drive. Investigation revealed that unknown person(s) broke a pane of glass in the basement door at the rear of the house. The sound of breaking glass alerted one of the home's occupants, and police were alerted right away. Village officers arrived very quickly, but the would-be burglar had already fled the scene.

The burglar was unable to open the door because the deadbolt on the inside door required a key to unlock it. Village officers processed the scene for evidence. The investigation by Montgomery County detectives is active and ongoing.

In this case, the homeowners had the proper locks on their doors, their house was securely locked and alarmed, and they called the police immediately. They deserve a great deal of credit as their security habits undoubtedly prevented the burglar from getting inside their home. Village residents are reminded to keep their doors and windows locked, to leave exterior front and rear lights on all night long, and to set their alarm if they have one. And please call 9-1-1 in any emergency.

Please remember that the CCVPD conducts free security surveys of homes in the Village upon request. Consider calling to schedule one today.