

Monday, December 21, 2015

Video of DC's 'Doorbell' Burglars in Action

Private security cameras captured 3 suspects on Aberfoyle Place, NW. The Chevy Chase Village Police Department recently learned that the Metropolitan Police (DC) Department is investigating several late night residential home break-ins that have occurred in the Barnaby Woods neighborhood (across Western Avenue from Summerfield Road). The burglars first ring the doorbell very late at night (11 p.m. or later); if no one answers and no lights come on, they attempt to break in.

In one event on Aberfoyle Place NW, the homeowner's security cameras showed that there were 3 suspects working in concert. One of the suspects is a woman and one is obviously a man. The 3rd suspect's face is entirely covered, but this person is likely a male.

If your doorbell rings late at night, turn on a bedroom light and call the Village Police (301-654-7300) immediately. Remain on the line with the dispatcher and officers will respond right away to investigate. And as always, lock your home and turn on your alarm system if you have one.

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Beware of Late Night 'Doorbell Burglar'

Thus far, all have occurred in DC; please stay alert. The Chevy Chase Village Police Department has just learned that the Metropolitan Police (DC) Department is investigating several late night residential home break-ins that have occurred in the Barnaby Woods neighborhood (across Western Avenue from Summerfield Road). The burglar first rings the doorbell very late at night (11 p.m. or later); if no one answers and no lights come on, he tries to break in.

If your doorbell rings late at night, turn on a bedroom light and call the Village Police (301-654-7300) immediately. Remain on the line with the dispatcher and officers will respond right away to investigate. And as always, lock your home and turn on your alarm system if you have one.

Thursday, October 8, 2015

Village Police Arrest Man Wanted by U.S. Marshalls; Portable Fingerprint Reader Used to ID Wanted Subject

At 1:45 a.m. this morning (October 8, 2015), Village Officer Hrnjak spotted two men-each pedaling a bicycle and one of them pushing an additional bike-riding south in the middle of Connecticut Avenue. Officer Hrnjak engaged the pair in conversation. Both men verbally

identified themselves. One of the men then agreed to allow Officer Hrnjak to use a wireless portable fingerprint scanner to determine his identity.

Turns out that the man's finger told a different story than the one he told to Officer Hrnjak. The fingerprint reader provided Officer Hrnjak with the man's true name-Edward Ghee, Jr. of the 5900 block of 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC. Mr. Ghee (and his finger) were wanted by the U.S. Marshall's Service on a warrant for violating probation on a drug distribution charge. Officer Hrnjak arrested Mr. Ghee and took him to jail.

Mr. Ghee abandoned the two bicycles that he had in the grass near the location where Officer Hrnjak stopped him. After arresting Mr. Ghee, officers found an additional bicycle discarded nearby. In all, 3 bicycles were seized.

Residents are asked to inventory their bicycles right away; if any are missing, please contact Village Police immediately.

Week Ending September 11, 2015

Several Unlocked Cars Entered This Week; Two Bicycles Stolen

Overnight from Monday, September 7 into Tuesday, September 8, thieves entered six unlocked cars in the Village as follows:

- Grafton Street: Three cars were entered; one in the unit block, two in the middle block. Cash and coins stolen.
- 5600 block of Kirkside Drive: Two cars entered; nothing taken.
- 4100 block of Oliver Street: Coins, a GPS, and a raincoat stolen.

That same night (Monday - Tuesday), a bicycle was stolen from the open garage in the 5800 block of Kirkside Drive, and the bike was recovered on the front lawn of a home on Grafton Street between Chevy Chase Circle and Cedar Parkway. We believe that the same thieves that were entering cars also stole and abandoned this bicycle.

Due to the recent rash of nighttime thefts, Village police requested additional resources from County police. County detectives were in the Village in the early morning hours of Thursday, September 10 when they spotted two suspicious men. The detectives lost sight of the two men.

Later in the morning, as residents went out to their cars, they reported the following vehicles entered:

- Middle block of Grafton Street (between Cedar and Kirkside): Two unlocked cars were entered. Papers taken from one car that was parked on the street; a garage door opener and sunglasses were taken from the other which was parked in the driveway.
- 4000 block of Oliver Street: An unlocked car parked on the street was entered; nothing taken.

And at about 7:40 p.m. on September 10, a resident witnessed a black male in his 30's take a bicycle that was in the driveway of her neighbor's house in the middle block of Grafton. The suspect rode off toward Chevy Chase Circle. Village officers responded right away; the suspect was not located.

We need your help to stop this spike in thefts. Please close and lock your garages, lock your cars every time you park, and secure your bicycles.

Village Police will continue to work with Montgomery County detectives to identify those responsible.

Thursday, September 10, 2015

Two Suspicious Young Men on Bikes Stopped at 5:00 a.m. Today

Immediately check if you are missing any bikes; call Village police right away if any bikes are missing.

Due to a recent rash of nighttime thefts, Village police requested additional resources from County police. County detectives spotted two suspicious young men riding bicycles through the Village in the early morning on Thursday, September 10. Investigators stopped the pair and interviewed them. The pair was released without arrest.

Detectives have reason to believe that the bicycles being ridden by the suspicious men were stolen and they are asking that residents inventory their bicycles right away and report any missing bicycles to Village police at 301-654-7300. Village officers will follow up with County detectives.

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

Several Unlocked Cars Entered Overnight Monday-Tuesday

Cash, coins and a GPS unit stolen.

Overnight from Monday, September 7 into Tuesday, September 8, thieves entered six unlocked cars in the Village as follows:

- Grafton Street: Three cars were entered; one in the unit block, two in the middle block. Cash and coins stolen.
- 5600 block of Kirkside Drive: Two cars entered; nothing taken.
- 4100 block of Oliver Street: Coins, a GPS, and a raincoat stolen.

Over the summer, the Village has had a number of these unlocked car entries. Please help to prevent crime by locking your car every time you park.

Week Ending September 4, 2015

Four Unlocked Cars Entered on East Side Wednesday Night

Nothing taken from any of the cars.

At each of the below locations, unlocked cars were parked on the street in front of the residents' homes, rifled through, but nothing was taken:

- Quincy Street
- Unit block of Oxford Street
- 200 block of Primrose Street
- Bradley Lane

Please lock your car every time you park. Deny thieves the opportunity to steal.

Week Ending August 28, 2015

Phone Scammers are Hard at Work

Beware of 'IRS agent' / 'Lawsuit pending' / 'Grandchild needs bail money' / 'Jury duty arrest threat' versions on the theme.

Recently, several residents have received calls from various thieves who use various ruses to frighten them into sending money to prevent something bad from happening. The various scams include:

- An 'IRS' agent calls alerting the victim that they owe back taxes or penalties, and they must pay right away to being arrested.
- A caller tries to convince the victim that unless they send cash right away, they will be sued. The money will stop the suit.
- A caller claims to be the victim's grandchild in dire need of cash to bail him out of jail following an arrest (driving under the influence is frequently used). The 'grandchild' may pass the phone to his 'lawyer' who urges the victim to send money or their grandson will spend a few nights in jail.
- A caller pretends to be a sheriff or other official and tells the victim that they missed jury duty. To avoid arrest, they can send in the 'fine' amount.

These are a very old confidence games-but they continue to work. Don't be tricked by these thieves. Residents should keep the following in mind whenever the phone rings:

- You do not have to answer your phone. If you have caller ID, look at it, and if you don't recognize the caller, ignore the phone.
- 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 'grandson' (or some other version of thief) asking for money, hang up. Do not be courteous; just hang up.

Two Unlocked Cars Entered Monday Night

A total of \$2 in change stolen.

- Unit block of Newlands Street: Car was parked on the street and rifled through.
- 6300 block of Broadbranch Road: Car was parked on the street; \$2 in coins taken.

Please lock your car every time you park. Deny thieves the opportunity to steal.

Montgomery County Public Schools open on Monday, August 31

Please keep the following in mind as you drive:

- Don't drive distracted. Put aside the electronic devices and fully focus on driving. Reading or sending a text or using a handheld cell phone when you are behind the wheel will earn you a citation.
- Don't drive distracted. Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while reading or sending a text. When traveling at 55mph, that's enough time to cover the length of a football field.
- Don't drive distracted. Don't let anything divert your attention and be on the lookout for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Failure to stop for a stopped school bus with flashing red lights carries a \$570 fine and three points. Village officers will be increasing patrol of school bus stops to catch violators.
- If you witness an unsafe driver in the Village, note the tag number and report it to the Village Police Department.

Week Ending August 21, 2015

Two thefts this week:

- Bicycle stolen from an open porch; car entered by cutting through a convertible top
- 4000 block of Oliver Street: Between August 15 and August 18, an unsecured bicycle was taken from an open side porch.
- 3900 block of Oliver Street: Overnight August 17-18, someone sliced a convertible top of a car parked in the driveway. \$1 in change was taken.

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

3 Armed Robberies in Nearby Upper Northwest DC

All occurred between midnight and 1 a.m.

In the early minutes of Tuesday morning, July 28, 2015, three black males reportedly engaged in a series of robberies while armed with a handgun.

At about 12:15 a.m., a lone pedestrian was confronted near the intersection of Western Avenue and Quesada Street. At about 12:15, a woman walking alone on Connecticut Avenue near Military Road was robbed at gunpoint. Finally, at about 1 a.m., a third individual who was walking alone was robbed near the intersection of 35th and Albemarle Streets.

Residents are reminded that they can take some simple steps to avoid becoming a victim of a violent crime:

- Avoid walking alone-especially late at night-whenver 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.

The links below will take you to the Washington Post story and the NBC 4 story describing the events.

- [Washington Post](#)
- [NBC 4](#)

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Below is an unedited message from Captain David Falcinelli, the commander of the Montgomery County Police Department's 2nd District (Bethesda):

Dear Residents of the 2nd District:

While the 2nd District continues to be a safe community with very low rates of crimes against persons such as robberies and assaults, every summer we see an increase in the property crimes such as thefts from cars and theft of cars. This year has been no different. Theft from cars have increased significantly and I wanted to share with each of you the efforts we have made as your police department, along with some additional measures you need to take to help us out.

In anticipation of the summer theft from auto spike, we identified traditional hot spots and deployed resources to neighborhoods that we anticipated to be most affected. Resources deployed included traditional marked patrol cars, officers on bikes, officers on foot, undercover officers in covert cars, officers from countywide specialized units, and officers in an overtime status dedicated to this problem. We have also worked closely with our counterparts in D.C. and Chevy Chase Village to share intelligence and arrest information.

The good news is that our officers have arrested eleven suspects for these types of crimes in July alone. The bad news is that several crimes had already been committed before officers were able to catch the suspects in the act. Last night at 3am, our undercover officers observed a car that had been previously stolen driving through a neighborhood off of Greentree Road. The occupants were observed trying door handles of cars. The officers conducted a take-down of the car and immediately arrested two of the three suspects. After a four hour search which included K-9 dogs and a helicopter, the third and final suspect was captured at 7:30 this morning. All of these suspects had extensive criminal histories with one actually wearing a court ordered ankle bracelet for prior offenses at the time of his arrest.

We plan on continuing these current enforcement efforts for the remainder of the summer, and will be expanding our outreach efforts by having uniformed police explorers conducting door to door visits with prevention brochures.

Here is where we need your help. Suspects we arrest often tell us they come to Bethesda because it is easy for them. People are trusting and leave their cars, garages and homes often unlocked with valuable items such as purses, wallets, laptops, etc. in plain sight. Of the 45 theft from autos reported in July, 44 reported no force for entry. Of the 13 auto thefts, 7 had left keys in the car with some left in the ignition itself. This confirms exactly what the bad guys are saying. We are making it too easy for them and arrests will have a short-term impact, but in the long term, Bethesda needs to "harden the target" and make it less inviting for the criminal element. This is what we need you to do:

- **Lock your car doors!** Pay close attention to your key fobs and be sure you are pressing the LOCK button. When you lock up your house for the night, take an extra minute to double check that your cars are locked also. Our undercover officers have observed on more than one occasion suspects trying car door handles and simply moving onto the next car when they find it is locked. If a suspect does use force to enter a car, it is usually because they see something that either is valuable (IPAD) or appears to be valuable (laptop case). They do not want to make noise by using force because it draws the attention of the you and then the police. The simple act of locking doors will have a huge impact on our problem.
- **Close and lock your garage doors!** In several cases so far where cars have been stolen, stolen bikes have been left in their place. Suspects that commit auto thefts and theft from autos will often steal a bike or a car before going out on their crime spree. Many of these bikes are stolen from unlocked and open garage doors. By locking your garage door, you also prevent a suspect that gains access to your car from using the garage door opener to enter your garage and steal additional property.
- **Call the police when you observe suspicious behavior!** Nearly all of the suspects we arrest for thefts from autos are carrying backpacks. Many are riding bikes. Some will be seen driving a car slowly through the neighborhood before parking and getting out on foot. Most are on neighborhood streets very late at night and into the early morning hours. Most are in their teens and early twenties. Some travel in groups. If you see any of these behaviors, you need to call us immediately. You are our eyes and our ears.

Several of our arrests were made because of exactly these types of calls to our 911 center. Call 911 for a crime in progress or 301-279-8000 for suspicious situations. Let us take care of the rest!

The Montgomery County Department of Police takes pride in doing their best to keep the crime rate down and you and your families safe. We cannot do it alone, and need each of you to take your role of personal/family protection seriously. Look out for your neighbors. Call us when you observe suspicious behavior. A few ounces of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Thanks for your time.

Captain David Falcinelli
Commander - 2nd District

Wednesday, July 22, 2015

One of Two Stolen Cars Recovered in DC, Car was Unoccupied when it was Discovered

On Saturday night, July 11, 2015, two cars were stolen from the same driveway in the unit block of Grafton Street; a key ring containing both car keys had inadvertently been left in one of the cars. One of the cars was a grey Audi A3, and the other was a white VW Golf.

On Tuesday, July 21, 2015 at about 6:00 p.m., a Metropolitan Police (DC) officer spotted the Audi parked on 4th Street NW with only the front tag displayed. The officer checked the tag and learned that the car was stolen. The car, in drivable condition, was towed back to the Montgomery County Police auto recovery garage. The white VW Golf has not yet been located.

The investigation is continuing.

Monday, July 13, 2015

Village Hit by Thieves Over the Weekend (July 11-12)

2 cars stolen, several cars entered.

Overnight from Saturday, July 11 into Sunday, July 12, thieves entered several unlocked cars in the Village as follows:

- 5500 block of Center Street: A GPS and prescription sunglasses worth a total of \$450 was stolen from a car parked in the driveway.
- Unit block of Hesketh Street: A car parked on the street was rifled through; nothing taken.

- 4000 block of Oliver Street: \$4 in change was stolen from a car in the driveway.
- W Melrose Street: An electronic dog collar was stolen.
- Unit block of Grafton Street: he thieves found a key ring inside a car parked in a driveway. The key ring contained keys to 2 cars owned by the resident. The thieves stole both cars from the driveway. The stunned residents discovered both cars missing on Sunday morning.

Overnight from Sunday, July 12 into Monday, July 13, thieves entered unlocked cars as follows:

- W Kirke Street near Cedar Parkway: A car parked on the street was rifled through; nothing taken.
- 5400 block of Center: A car parked in the driveway was entered; nothing taken.
- 5600 block of Western: A car parked in the rear driveway (alley access) was entered; nothing taken.

Residents are urged to remove valuables and to lock their cars every time they park. Unlocked cars provide an opportunity for thieves. These crimes are preventable. When we continue to make stealing easy, we can expect the thieves to come back.

Lock it up and eliminate the opportunity! Your neighbors will appreciate it.

Monday, July 6, 2015

Beware of "Grandchild-in-Need" Phone Scam

Recently, some residents have received a call from a young man claiming to be their grandchild in dire need of cash to bail him out of jail following an arrest (driving under the influence is frequently used). The 'grandson' may pass the phone to his 'lawyer' who urges the victim to send money or their grandson will spend a few nights in jail.

The victim is then instructed to go to a CVS or similar store and buy a cash card. Once the cash card is purchased and its serial number provided to the suspects, the scam is complete. The money is instantly stolen, and the 'grandson' is a happy thief.

This is a very old confidence game. It preys on your desire to help your grandchild. Most of us would pay money just to get our grandkids to call us-but don't fall victim to these thieves!

Residents should keep the following in mind whenever the phone rings:

- You do not have to answer your phone. If you have caller ID, look at it, and if you don't recognize the caller, ignore the phone.
- 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 'grandson' asking for money, hang up. Do not be courteous; just hang up.

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

6 Unlocked Cars Entered Overnight; Village Bait Car Alerted the Police to the Thief's Presence

At 4 a.m. this morning (Wednesday, July 1, 2015), an unknown male entered the Chevy Chase Village bait car that was parked on the east side of the Village. The suspect appeared to be a clean-shaven black male in his 20's with short hair.

Village Officer Hrnjak responded immediately along with several officers from the Montgomery County Police Department. Although the suspect was not located by any of the officers, a K-9 unit tracked the suspect's scent into the District of Columbia.

Officer Hrnjak canvassed the neighborhood on foot and discovered four additional cars that had been entered-2 in the unit block of Primrose Street and 2 in the unit block of Oxford Street.

Later in the morning, a resident contacted the Village Police Department to report that his unlocked car in the 100 block of E Melrose Street had also been entered.

As of this writing, nothing was reported stolen from any of the cars.

Residents are reminded to remove valuables from their cars and to lock them every time they park. And call the police immediately if you see or hear anything suspicious in the wee hours.

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

Two Current Things to Watch Out For: Fraudulent Tax Returns Filed in Your Name and Aggressive Solicitors

ID Theft Scam: Fraudulent Maryland Tax Returns

In recent days, several Village residents have reported that they have received a letter from the Maryland Comptroller's Office that someone had stolen their identity and had filed a fraudulent tax return in their name. See a copy of the [form letter from the Comptroller \(PDF\)](#). The letter from the Comptroller is legitimate; the tax return is a fraud.

If you receive a letter such as this, do the following (all relevant phone numbers are on the Comptroller's letter):

1. Call the Comptroller's Office to confirm the letter and to ask any questions related to the fraudulent tax return filed in your name;

2. Call and report the identity theft to the IRS, the FTC and the three credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion);
3. Call the Chevy Chase Village Police Department to report the event; and
4. Monitor your accounts.

Aggressive Magazine Solicitors

In 2012, the Village Police Department learned that a woman by the name of Tontanisha Reed was going door-to-door in upper northwest DC in an effort to sell magazine subscriptions for an outfit based in Atlanta. When homeowners refused to buy any magazines, Ms. Reed reportedly became angry, aggressive and intimidating. She has been arrested in various cities in the U.S. for alleged crimes related to such conduct, and we immediately alerted Village residents to be on the lookout for her. An article from the [Houston Press](#) can be found online.

Last Thursday (June 4), Ms. Reed (black female, 33 years old, 5'9", 140 lbs), along with another woman named Skynesha Watkins (black female, 22 years old, 5'1", 240 lbs), were in the Village soliciting magazine subscriptions. Although they did not act aggressively toward any of our residents, they were violating Village code by soliciting without a permit. Responding officers identified both women and ordered them to stop soliciting immediately until such time as they obtained a permit; they left the Village straight away.

We applaud the residents who called the police when Ms. Reed and Ms. Watkins were apparently violating our code. Residents are reminded that some solicitors use their door-to-door sales as a cover for burglary or other crimes. Residents are urged to call the police whenever a solicitor knocks on their door. Village police officers will respond right away and investigate.

Week Ending Friday May 15, 2015

Prevent Bicycle Theft and Increase the Chances of Getting Your Stolen Bike Back

Lock your bicycle up and register it with the Village for free!

This is the time of year when we tend to see an increase in bicycle theft throughout the metro region. It is essential that you never leave your bicycle unattended without locking it to a fixed object, or bringing it inside a secure building.

It is also critical that every bicycle owner record the serial number of their bicycle. Unfortunately, many stolen bikes are recovered every year, but they cannot be returned to the rightful owner without that number.

The Chevy Chase Village Police Department offers a free bicycle registration service. Residents simply fill out a brief form with their bicycle information (officers will gladly assist you in finding your bike's serial number if you have trouble), we will record the information in our database,

and provide you with a registration sticker. The form is available on our website under Police Services/Bicycle Registration. If your bicycle is ever stolen, we can make sure that the serial number is entered in a national database of stolen items to improve the chances that the bike will be returned to you.

Week ending Friday, May 1, 2015

Laptop Computer Stolen from Unlocked Car Overnight

On Monday, April 27, 2015, a resident reported that someone stole an Apple laptop computer from her unlocked car which was parked in her driveway in the unit block of East Kirke Street. The resident stated that the theft occurred overnight Wednesday, April 22-Thursday, April 23.

In order to keep thieves from returning to the Village, we must deny them opportunities to steal. Residents are reminded (read: emphatically urged!) to remove valuables from view and to lock their car every time they park.

Friday, April 10, 2015

Two Arrested for Burglary on Western Avenue

At 12:15 p.m. today (Friday, April 10, 2015), Chevy Chase Village police officers responded to an alarm call in the 5500 block of Western Avenue. Officers immediately saw that the back door had been kicked in, and they called for additional resources. Montgomery County officers responded with patrol officers, a K9 unit and detectives.

Due to an ongoing burglary problem in the greater Chevy Chase area (Rollingwood, Section 3, Martin's Additions, etc.), detectives were already in the vicinity of Western Avenue when the call was dispatched. Plain clothes detectives spotted two young men on Western Avenue who appeared to be acting suspiciously. Detectives stopped the young men to investigate.

Village officers identified a shoe print on the door that was forced open by the burglars, so Village Officer Almas photographed the shoe print and compared it with the sole of the shoes worn by one of the individuals that were stopped by detectives. It was an obvious match. The young man wearing the shoes implicated himself and his friend in the burglary.

The young men, one 19 and the other 15, both from Washington, DC, were arrested. The investigation is continuing.

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Update: Persons Responsible for the Graffiti in Western Grove Park Have Been Identified

With the help of the community, the Chevy Chase Village Police Department was able to identify those responsible for painting graffiti on the wooden fence in Western Grove Park and in other areas in the Village last month.

Those responsible are juveniles, and their identities will remain confidential. The responsible individuals have admitted to the graffiti, and the Village Police Department has reason to believe that this problem has ended. Importantly, the graffiti was not related to any gang activity or affiliation whatsoever.

The Chevy Chase Village Police Department is grateful to those who provided information that led to the successful resolution of this matter.

Thursday, February 12, 2015

Two Men Arrested and Charged with Theft-Related Crimes in Chevy Chase Village After Stumbling Into Bait Car

Bait Car Captures Video of Thief in the Act

Chevy Chase Village and Montgomery County police officers arrested two men early this morning after one of them was caught on live streaming video entering a "bait car" owned by the Chevy Chase Village Police Department. The bait car is a vehicle that looks like any other truck or car, but it is equipped with hidden cameras and a microphone to record video and audio whenever anyone tampers with the car. The video/audio is streamed live to the Chevy Chase Village Police Department where it is monitored by police dispatchers.

In December, 2012, Chevy Chase Village's bait car program was fully funded through a grant by GEICO Insurance Company. GEICO's corporate headquarters is in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

In this morning's incident, the bait car was parked on Primrose Street, and the on-duty dispatcher saw, via live video stream, that a man had entered the bait car at about 3:15 a.m. The dispatcher immediately sent on-duty officers toward the car; officers from both the Chevy Chase Village Police Department and the Montgomery County Police Department responded.

With the assistance of Montgomery County K9 units, officers found the two suspects hiding in a yard in the 6400 block of Brookville Road. In an effort to avoid arrest, the pair then ran in different directions. After a short foot pursuit, both men were captured by K9 units.

The two suspects were identified as Eric Lavon BATEN (the man captured on the bait car video), 35 years old, of the 900 block of Southern Avenue in Washington, DC, and Harrison Earl ANDERSON, 32 years old, of the 6700 block of Terra Alta Drive in Lanham, MD.

Further investigation revealed that, in addition to the bait car, at least 4 other cars on Primrose Street had been entered and coins and other items were taken from them. Several suspected stolen items were recovered from Mr. BATEN and Mr. ANDERSON when they were searched by police.

Both men were charged with Breaking and Entering a Motor Vehicle, Theft, Attempted Theft, Trespassing, and Resisting Arrest.



Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Telephone "Jury Duty" Scam: Ignore It

There is a new phone scam that is in vogue now, and it preys upon your fear of being arrested for contempt of court for missing jury duty. Chief Fitzgerald received the below email from a resident of Somerset; read it and it will describe how the scam works.

I received a phone call this afternoon informing me that I did not show up for jury duty on January 26, and therefore 2 warrants have been issued to me - one for failure to appear and the other for contempt of court - totaling \$880. I was told that I have to immediately pay this amount and then appear before a Montgomery County judge in Rockville and the money would be refunded to me if I had a valid excuse.

Since many of the details sounded unusual:

- The sergeant said that a summons to jury duty had been mailed to me in December which I never received

- I could purchase a voucher at a commercial store like 7-11 but would have to give them cash only
- I couldn't go up to the courthouse to handle this before paying the fine as I would be subject to arrest and be in jail for 72 hours because of the warrants
- The voucher had to be paid for this afternoon or tomorrow morning

I called Congressman Van Hollen's office who said it was probably a scam and was told to call the Montgomery County Circuit Court Jury Service office which I did, and it was confirmed that it was a scam - the 4th report they got this week - and that fines are paid directly to them, never to a third party.

The Chevy Chase Village Police Department recommends that you do the following to reduce your likelihood of being scammed over the telephone:

- Consider not answering the phone. If you don't recognize the incoming number, ignore the call and let it go to voicemail.
- Never provide any information to someone who calls you.
- Get information from the caller: Ask for their name, mailing address, website address, phone number, and the name of a supervisor.
- Register your phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry at www.DoNotCall.gov or by calling 888-382-1222.
- Report suspicious callers to the Village Police Department, to the Maryland Attorney General's Office at 888-743-0023, and to the Federal Trade Commission at 877-382-4357.

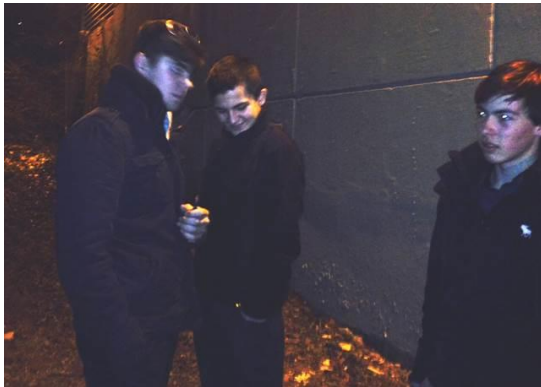
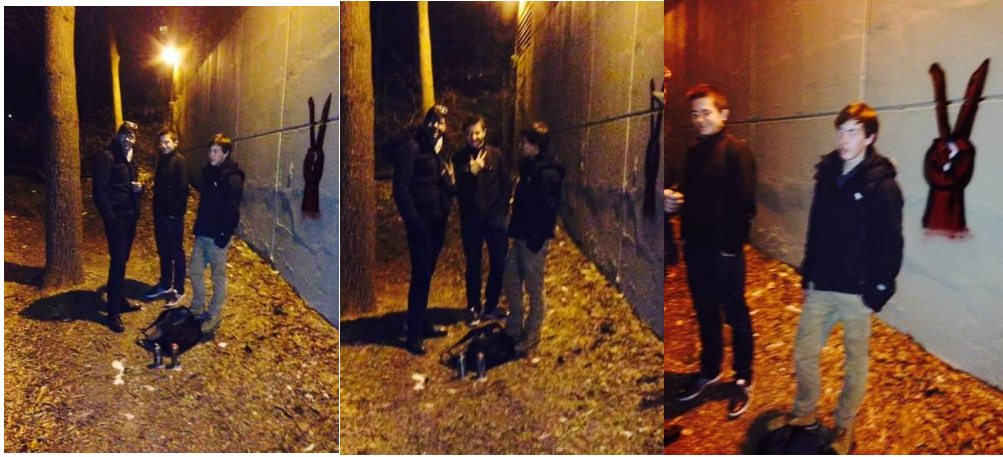
Thursday, February 5, 2015

Police Need Help Identifying Graffiti Suspects

The Chevy Chase Village and Montgomery County Police Departments are investigating a series of graffiti-style vandalism incidents. The 3 young men in the below photos are suspects in one of the incidents. The police need your help to identify the young men.

The photos were taken by an eyewitness who stumbled upon the three suspects and saw them spray painting a wall. You can see some of their paint cans in the photos. Rather than run and hide, the suspects proudly posed for the eyewitness as he took pictures of them.

If you know any of the three suspects, please contact the Chevy Chase Village Police Department at 301-654-7300. You do not have to give your name; we accept anonymous tips and we will investigate.



Friday, January 9, 2015

4 Unlocked Cars Entered Overnight; Nothing taken from 3 of Them, Coins Taken from 1

At about 1 a.m. today (Friday, January 9, 2015), the police received a call from a person who saw a suspicious man pulling on car door handles in the area of Primrose Street and Connecticut Avenue. The man was described as a black male, about 6ft tall, wearing camouflage pants and carrying a green tote bag. Two Village police officers responded and arrived on the scene within two minutes of the call. The man was not located, but the officers canvassed the neighborhood and found three unlocked cars that appeared to have been entered. One of the cars was in the unit block of Primrose Street, and the other two were in the unit block of Oxford Street. All three cars had been parked on the street.

Officers contacted the owners of the cars who verified that their cars had been entered, but nothing was stolen from any of them.

At 9 a.m. today, a resident from W Lenox Street (the section between Laurel Parkway and Magnolia Parkway) reported that his unlocked car had been parked in the driveway and it, too, had been entered. Approximately \$5 in change was stolen.

The perpetrator in this story is our typical thief: he simply walked quietly through the neighborhood pulling on car door handles. If the car was locked, he moved on; if it was unlocked, he entered it in search of something of value.

Please, please lock your car every time you park. Deny these thieves the opportunity to steal. If we do that consistently, they will not come to the Village as frequently.