

# CITY OF RICHMOND, VA

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH



RPD In partnership with the Community working to foster better Communication and strengthen Relationships .

VOLUME I, ISSUE I

JANUARY – MARCH 2021

### Staying safe during COVID pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our daily routines beyond our wildest imagination. Who could have predicted that people would be working from home, children would be e-learning, businesses would be closed or have restrictions which effect employees and hundreds of jobs would be lost. It's a difficult time for many.

Now that a lot of us are home, we are presented with new opportunities to get to know the people living in our neighborhoods. As we social distance, find ways to make a connection with your neighbors. Stay safe as you move about but introduce yourself to the neighbors that you don't know. Help them if they require assistance and be hospitable to all. We are all in this together.

If COVID-19 is spreading in your community, stay safe by taking some simple precautions, such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated, avoiding crowds, cleaning your hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or tissue.

#### Know the full range of symptoms of COVID-19.

- The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough, and tiredness. Other symptoms that are less common and may affect some patients include loss of taste or smell, aches and pains, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion, red eyes, diarrhea, or a skin rash.
- **Stay home and self-isolate even if you have minor symptoms such as cough, headache, mild fever**, until you recover. Call your health care provider or hotline for advice. Have someone bring you supplies. If you need to leave your house or have someone near you, wear a medical mask to avoid infecting others.
- **If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention immediately. Call by telephone first, if you can and follow the directions of your local health authority.**
- **Keep up to date on the latest information from trusted sources, such as WHO or your local and national health authorities.** Local and national authorities and public health units are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.



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# Building a Neighborhood Watch Program

Successful Neighborhood Watch programs are built upon mutual relationships between law enforcement and the community. Building a strong program is not an overnight process. It takes patience, planning and dedication.

A successful program will keep a community strong and protected and when a crime or emergency happens, citizens will be more than ready to act.



## Start A Watch Group in 5 Easy Steps

### **1 Recruit and Organize as many neighbors as possible**

The first step is talking to your fellow neighbors about starting a group.

### **2 Contact your local law enforcement agency and schedule a meeting.**

It is essential for your group to work in collaboration with law enforcement because Neighborhood Watch is a cooperative effort.

### **3 Discuss community concerns and develop an action plan.**

If law enforcement is unavailable to come to the first meeting you might want to have a meeting to discuss the concerns and issues in the neighborhood. Your group should create a plan on how to work towards lessening the impact of the top 3 concerns of neighbors.

### **4 Create a communication plan.**

It is important to decide what type of communication will work for your watch group, meetings or social media or both.

### **5 Take Action: Hold Meetings and Events**

Neighborhood Watch has a number of wonderful training topics and meeting ideas that can be useful to your group.

## What is RVA311 and what do we do?

RVA311 was launched on 2018 as the City of Richmond's primary intake for the public to submit non-emergency service requests.

We receive and route requests for service to numerous

City agencies including Public Works, Public Utilities, Social Services, Finance, Code Enforcement and others. There are over 60 non-emergency request types available online and additional requests are available through our phone representatives. We offer access through three channels:

1. Via phone from one of our 14 well-trained Citizen Service Representatives by calling 3-1-1 or 804-646-7000, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM, except Wednesdays, when phone lines open at 9 AM
2. Via our citizen portal at [RVA311.com](http://RVA311.com)
3. Through our smartphone app available in both Google Play and Apple App stores



# Crime Prevention Tips

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## PREVENTING PACKAGE THEFT



As people shop online and have items sent to their homes, packages left on doorsteps are easy targets for criminals

You might think having a Ring doorbell is enough to scare off burglars, but, thieves still run up to doorsteps and steal packages anyway.

Luckily, you can protect your packages through a few simple steps, ranging from proper delivery instructions to in-home delivery options.

- Have your package delivered to your work if you continue to work in the office.
- Have your package delivered to the home of a relative or friend that you know will be home. If you are home, receive the package when it arrives at your door.
- Have your package held at your local post office for pickup. Use this feature when receiving and sending packages through the postal service. When shipping packages, opt for the “Hold for Pickup” option, and recipients can collect packages at their local post office. If you are expecting a package, you can redirect it to be held for you using the Intercept a Package feature at [USPS.com](http://USPS.com) and click on the Track & Manage tab at the top of the page.
- Take advantage of “Ship to Store” option that many stores offer. Amazon offers a Hub locker that allows you to pick up your package from a secure location.

## Prevent Your Car from Being Stolen

### Don't Make It Easy For Car Thieves

Want to make your vehicle less attractive to car thieves? The quicker a car thief can steal your vehicle, the more attractive it is. Anything you can do to slow down professional car thieves or joyriders, will make your vehicle a less appealing target.

Over 770,000 drivers fall victim to this costly crime each year.



### What You Can Do

1. Keep your vehicle locked at all times, even while driving.
2. When parked, never leave your keys in the car. Close all the windows and the sunroof.
3. Never leave your car running and unattended.
4. Avoid leaving valuables inside your vehicle where passersby can see them.
5. Do not leave your vehicle title in the car. Too often a car thief is pulled over and gets away from the police because he or she can produce the auto registration. (If multiple drivers use the vehicle, the best suggestion would be to hide the registration in a secret location in the car that only the owners know.)
6. Know where you're going. Avoid known high crime areas even if the alternate route takes longer.
7. Install an anti-theft system in your vehicle if it doesn't have one. Thieves are reluctant to steal vehicles if they know the cars can be recovered quickly.
8. Thieves prefer to work in the dark. Be particularly cautious at night about where you park your car. Park it in a well-lit area if possible.
9. Look around. Be aware of your surroundings, especially in garages, parking lots and gas stations.
10. Have your car's vehicle identification number (VIN) etched on each of the windows. Car thieves want to get off cheap. They don't want to go to the expense of replacing all the glass.
11. On an incline, leave your car in park or in gear with the wheels turned toward the curb or some other obstruction. This makes it harder for thieves to tow your vehicle.

If confronted by a carjacker, do not resist.  
Cars can be replaced you can't.

## Police Information

**FIRST PRECINCT** \_\_\_\_\_ **804 646-3602**

**SECOND PRECINCT** \_\_\_\_\_ **804 646-8093**

**THIRD PRECINCT** \_\_\_\_\_ **804 646-1412**

**FOURTH PRECINCT** \_\_\_\_\_ **804 646-4105**

### POLICE PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

**804 646-6727**

### POLICE INFORMATION DESK

**804 646-0400**

After 5:00 p. m. **804 646-4185**

**POLICE NON-EMERGENCY -804 646-5100**

**POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE \_911**

**MAGISTRATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **804 646-6689**

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We are on the web!



[richmondgov.com](http://richmondgov.com)

Community Care Unit @RPDCares

**Richmond Police Dept., Headquarters**

**City of Richmond**

200 W. Grace Street

Richmond, Virginia 23223



To Start or re-activate  
a Neighborhood  
Watch Program on  
your block or in your  
Community contact:

**Officer Paul Lewis**

**Neighborhood Watch Coordinator**

**804-646-7179**

Email: [paul.lewis@richmodgov.com](mailto:paul.lewis@richmodgov.com)