

# STAFFORD STAR

Volume 3, Issue 2

July 2007

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Message from Sheriff Jett

It is getting warmer and hotter by the day, summer has arrived and the pools are now open! My family and I will be spending a lot of time near water either swimming or fishing, and I think most of you will be outside playing this summer.

Being around water whether it is in a pool, river, lake, or Jacuzzi, there are always safety measures you can take to make sure everyone is safe. If you are at the **beach**, keep a lookout for these flags.



If you are going to be near a **river**, such as the Rappahannock River, then please follow these steps:

- Respect the river
- Buddy system: never wade, tube, swim, or boat alone
- Wear a life jacket
- Equipment: wear shoes, clothes, sun protection, first aid kit, plenty of drinking water
- Be a swimmer
- Take a boating course
- Be physically fit
- No alcohol/no drugs
- Plan out your trip
- Get a weather report before starting your trip
- Check water levels (<http://va.water.usgs.gov>)
- Be aware of unknown hazards: deep holes, currents, shifting



sand bars, broken glass, fish hooks, logs, roots and assorted trash.

Regardless of where you go to swim, whether it is a lake, river, pool, hot tub or ocean, always remember to be safe. Have someone with you when you are around water. Remember, if there's an emergency, call 911!

The summer is a fun time to get outside and spend time with friends and family. I hope you have a great summer full of fun in the sun and water.

Sincerely, Charles E. Jett

## Building the Foundation of Community and Law Enforcement Partnerships

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### This Month's Events:

- Scam Busters (Business Watch)  
1st Tuesday of the month at 2PM
- Crime Solvers  
1st Wednesday of the month at 7PM
- Cadets  
1st Thursday of the month at 7PM
- Independence Day (4)
- National Fraud Awareness Week (9-15)
- National Ice Cream Month

**Current Threat Level As of June 25, 2007 is YELLOW— Significant Threat of Terrorism. Go to [www.dhs.gov](http://www.dhs.gov) for daily updates.**

**SUGGESTIONS?  
Call or email us!**

## Ask Crime Prevention

**NEW!!** The Crime Prevention office would like to answer questions you may have about various law enforcement subjects (such as terminology, D.A.R.E. Program, upcoming events, etc.) If you have any questions, call us at 540-658-4030, fax us at 540-658-4039, or email us at [crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us).

### What if my house/car is broken into?

This could happen to anyone at any time. If you have had the unfortunate event of someone breaking into your home/car, follow these steps.

- Do not touch anything (there may be evidence on your belongings)
- Call Stafford Sheriff's office to report the incident
- Provide as much detail as possible (time, location of items, etc)

#### HOW TO PREPARE?

- Keep an updated inventory of serial numbers and descriptions of items in your home (TVs, DVDs, DVD/VCRs, computers, cameras, etc.)
- As a neighbor, keep a lookout for anything suspicious in your neighborhood, vehicles at a home when you know people are at work, etc.

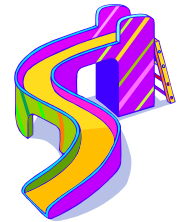
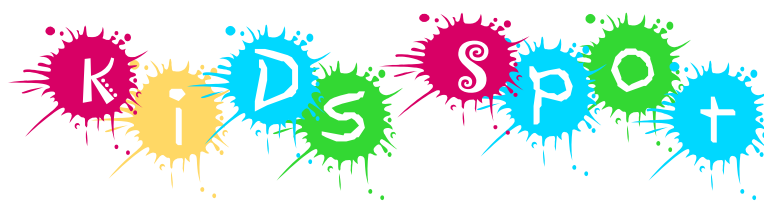


Visit McGruff online at:

[www.McGruff.org](http://www.McGruff.org)

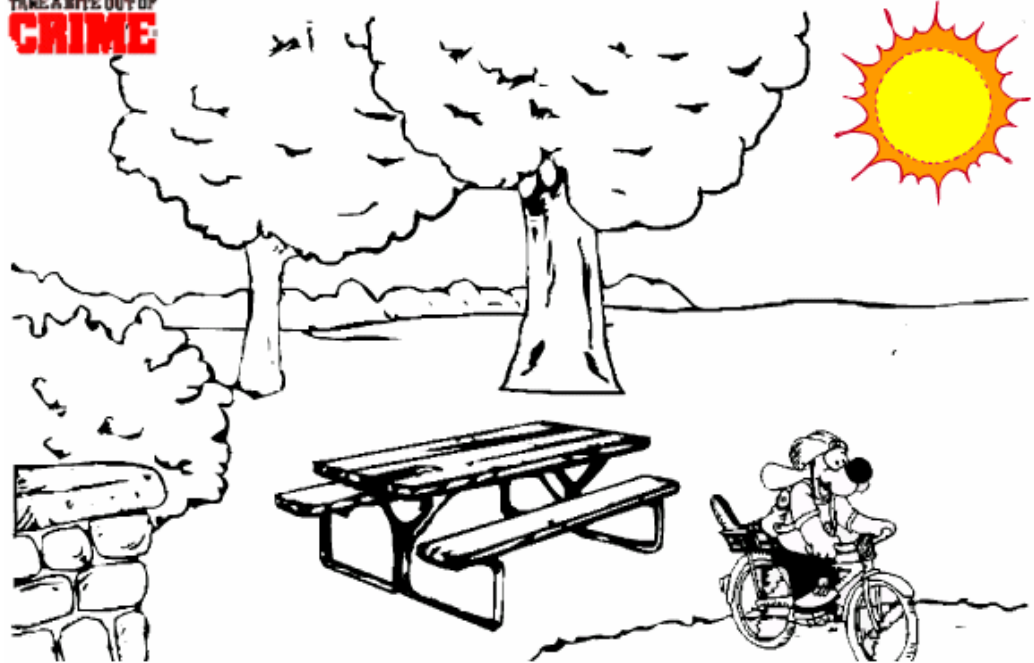
Be safe on the playground by following these tips!!

- Make sure there's a parent close by
- Do not climb up the slide
- Slow down when getting off of the swing, do not jump off while you are swinging
- Do not talk to strangers—let a parent know if you see anything strange



### Playground Safety

TAKE A BITE OUT OF  
**CRIME**



Color this picture of Scruff riding his bike through the park!

## Stafford Highlights

### CONGRATULATIONS ALL GRADUATES!!

D.A.R.E. Classes

Citizen Police Academy

High School Seniors



## Senior Section



**TRIAD** (Stafford's Affiliation S.A.L.T. Senior and Law Enforcement Together) strives to reduce the criminal victimization of our older or retired citizens, and to improve their quality of life.

FYI—on **Wednesday, July 18 from 10:00AM - 12:00PM**, the Porter Library (located at 2001 Parkway Boulevard, Stafford, 540-659-4909) there will be **SENIOR SURFERS** meeting that talks about internet safety, searches, and information. No sign-up needed, and you don't have to be a certain age!!

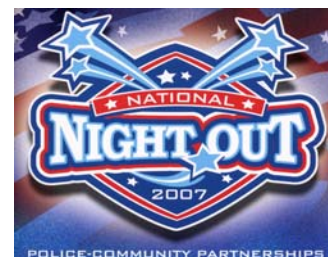


## Neighborhood News

**National Night Out (NNO)** is coming soon to Stafford County. Each year the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) coordinates a nationwide event, National Night Out (NNO). Over 35 million people in more than 11,000 communities will come together on Tuesday, **August 7, 2007** to promote police-community partnerships; crime, drug and violence prevention; safety; and neighborhood unity.

If you and your community would like to participate in NNO, all you need to do is organize your own event (cook out, pool party, block party, flashlight walk, etc.) within your community. If you would like someone from the Sheriff's Office to make an appearance, just let us know by calling Andrea at 658-4030 or emailing ([abingler@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:abingler@co.stafford.va.us)).

To learn more about the event, visit [www.nationalnightout.org](http://www.nationalnightout.org).



**Tuesday, August 7**

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON!!**

## Business Corner

TRUE OR FALSE?? Check on [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com)

The Stafford Crime Prevention Unit wants you to be aware of what's happening in our county in regards to business safety/ concerns. Stay aware of your surroundings and be prepared.

At the **Scam Busters** meetings, area businesses share and learn what the crime trends are in the area. We seen various crime reports that affect everyone (business owners and patrons).

### Safety Suggestions

- Leaving Work After Hours**  
 When you/employees are arriving/ leaving work before/after hours, there are several safety tips: travel in a group, park vehicle under a well lit area, let someone know where you are if you're working early/late.
- Thefts from Cars in Gym Parking Lots**  
 There have been many reports in Stafford County and surrounding areas in regards to vehicles being broken into while parked in various workout facilities. It is suggested that you not keep objects of value in plain sight, keep a few valuables in your car as possible, always lock your vehicle (with windows closed) while not within the vicinity.
- Theft of Wallets/Purses**  
 Thieves are also stealing wallets/purses from shopping carts in various locations in and around Stafford County. We suggest you: do not lay purse in the shopping cart (keep at your side), keep purse closed/zipped, do not leave your purse unattended in the shopping cart. Subjects are distracting people away from their carts to take their belongings.

**1st Tuesday of each Month**  
**TIME: 2PM**  
**PLACE: Rowsver Building**  
 (1739 Jefferson Davis Hwy)

STAFFORD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Crime Prevention Office  
1300 Courthouse Road  
P.O. Box 189  
Stafford, VA 22555

**Sheriff C. E. Jett**

Phone: 540-658-4450  
Email: [crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us](mailto:crimeprevention@co.stafford.va.us)



**Suggestions? Comments?  
LET ANDREA KNOW!!**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

We, the men and women of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the community, are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life by maintaining order, protecting life and property, and reducing the fear of crime.

We will ensure the peace and safety of all citizens by upholding the Constitution of the United States and of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As leaders of the community, we will embrace our core beliefs: Integrity, Compassion, Fairness, and Professionalism.

**Visit us on the internet!  
[www.staffordsheriff.com](http://www.staffordsheriff.com)**

**Burglary Prevention—Facts and Strategies**

**Did you know?**

- About 6 out of 10 completed burglaries take place through unlocked doors or windows.
- Burglaries have steadily declined in the United State - from 100 burglaries per thousand households in 1973 to few than 30 per thousand household in 2003.
- Renters are far more likely than owners to be burglary victims. At a rate 85% higher than home-owning households.



**Prevention**

- One of the most important steps you can take to prevent burglary is to put sturdy locks on sturdy doors and windows and use them.
- Get to know your neighbors. Join or organize a NHW. More than 20 million people say they take part in Neighborhood Watch.
- Burglars focus on convenience, concealment, and camouflage.
- In a survey of 1,000 police and fire chiefs, 85% said security systems decrease the likelihood a home will be burglarized.

**Strategies**

- Walk out of your home. Now pretend you've locked yourself out and there's no spare key. How would you get in? If you can find ways, so can a burglar.
- Keep trees trimmed away from the home and keep shrubbery trimmed so that burglars can't hide in it.
- Illuminate or eliminate places an intruder might hide—the spaces between trees or shrubbery, stairwells, alleys, and entryways.
- Make sure all outside entrances—front, back, side, basement—have good lighting and locks so burglars can't easily hide and try to break it.
- Lock all windows, garage doors, shed doors, and gates after every use.
- Keep spare keys with a trusted neighbor or nearby shopkeeper, not under a doormat or planer, on a ledge, or in a mailbox.
- Avoid confrontations with burglars.
- Set timers on lights when you're away from home or your business is closed so it appears to be occupied.
- If you're going on vacation, stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a trusted neighbor pick them up daily.
- Never leave a message on your answering machine that indicates you may be away from home.

*Information courtesy of Washington Times newspaper*