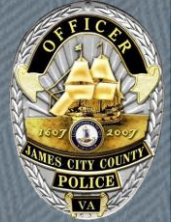




THE WATCH DIAL

A SERVICE OF THE JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT'S
COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT



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G.R.E.A.T. FAMILIES PROGRAM NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The G.R.E.A.T. Families program is a research-based, family-strengthening program consisting of a six-session family curriculum. The G.R.E.A.T. Families curriculum uses group interaction, activities, and skills practice to engage parents and children aged 10 to 14 in order to foster positive family functioning.

All participants must register with Officer Wendi Reed at 757-603-1236.

The course requires a deposit of \$30.00 which will be refunded at the end of the program if the family members attend all six (6) sessions.

The program will be held on Tuesday nights from 5pm-8pm on the following dates: 2/7, 2/14, 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, and 3/13.

What's your resolution this New Year?

By Major B. Rinehimer

With the New Year upon us, many people will be making New Year's resolutions or re-committing ourselves to various lifestyle activities. While some may follow through on these promises, many will fail or lose sight of their goals.

The reasons for these failures are numerous, but one common excuse is that in today's hectic society, we are just too busy to commit to certain activities for an extended time. While this is true to some degree, we find the time to do the things that we hold to be most important.

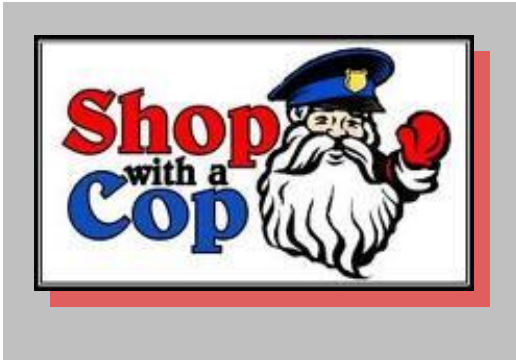
I am asking everyone to re-commit themselves to being an active participant in their own Neighborhood or Business Watch Program. We are fortunate to live in an area where we enjoy a certain level of peace and tranquility that many across our nation do not. This is not by chance. Our citizens and police department work very closely together to fight crime and combat issues before they become too large to control. This is done through a collaborative effort that relies on our citizens as much as our police officers to do their part in keeping our neighborhoods and business communities both safe and thriving. Be active and be involved. This is a New Year's resolution that will benefit us all...

JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



4600 Opportunity Way
Williamsburg, VA 23188
757-253-1800
www.jcegov.com/WatchDial





JAMES CITY COUNTY POLICE
DEPARTMENT
WOULD LIKE TO THANK:



FOR HELPING MAKE THIS EVENT
A SUCCESS!

1ST ANNUAL “SHOP WITH A COP”

A HUGE SUCCESS

By Officer T. Dill

On December 17th the James City County Police conducted their first “Shop with a Cop” program. Thirteen Officers and one Police Chaplain participated and made the holiday a little bit brighter for eleven children.

With the assistance of Target and Chick-fil-A located on Monticello Avenue, the day was a big success. The smiles on the children’s faces proved that this was a very worthy cause. After shopping at Target for toys, clothes, and necessities, the kids and officers were treated to lunch at Chick-fil-A. The Police Department is grateful to the generous citizens who made on the spot donations to the program.

No taxpayer money was used to sponsor this event. All money for this event was either donated or raised at a “Shred-A-Thon” event held in October.

The Police Department would like to thank all who helped make this special day a success. Your generosity will not be forgotten.

The Police Department looks forward to providing this service again next year. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the program for 2012, please call Officer Todd Dill at 757-603-6025.

“WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALL CITIZENS TO ACHIEVE A QUALITY COMMUNITY”

“Protection and Prevention Through Professionalism”

Citizen Police Academy to begin in February Space still available

The 34th Citizen Police Academy is set to begin on Wednesday February 1, 2012.

Students meet once a week and get to participate in numerous police activities such as: ride-alongs with officers, a day at the shooting range, time in the forensic lab, S.W.A.T. demonstration, building searches, and many others.

Classes usually meet on Wednesday night from 7-9 p.m. There are still slots available. You can also have your name placed on a list for future sessions if you are unable to attend this upcoming session.

The Police Department also has V.I.P.S. (Volunteers in Police Service) which is a group of citizen volunteers that assist the police department. To sign up for the Citizen Police Academy, put your name on the list for future sessions, or for more information about VIPS, please contact MPO Diggs at 757-603-6024.

Home Security in the New Year

By Officer R. Schugeld

As we enter 2012, home security and safety should be a resolution everyone should make for the New Year. Here are some important safety tips to ensure you are doing everything possible to keep you, your family, and your property safe.

1. Every entry door should have a deadbolt, including the door between your garage and house.
2. Secure your windows with quality window locks.
3. Make sure your landscaping is trimmed so hedges and shrubs don't hide your windows.
4. Ensure your property is well lit at night.
5. When you go away on vacation, use timers for interior lights.
6. Avoid hiding spare keys outside.
7. Consider a home alarm.
8. Equip all of your exterior doors with a wide-angle eye viewer that allows you to identify visitors.
9. Consider your perimeter security. Walk around your property at different times of the day to judge lighting and shadows. Think about how you enter and exit the home from different doorways.
10. Plant thorny or prickly shrubbery near windows.
11. Install motion sensors to control your existing lighting.
12. Do not leave your home unlocked for a child coming home for school. Consider an electric lock in lieu of hide-a-keys or unlocked doors.
13. Never leave ground level windows open or ajar when you are not home.
14. Make sure all of the sliding glass doors have at least one of the following:
 - a. Track Bar
 - b. Hinged door bar
 - c. Insertion pin lock
 - d. Metal or wood dowel track

If you would like to schedule a free home security survey please call the James City County Police Department Community Services Unit at 757-253-1800 to schedule an appointment with a Crime Prevention Officer.

THE WATCH DIAL

TEEN DATING VS. TECHNOLOGY

By Officer I. Demodna

“Mom, can I go to the movies with my friend?” If you’re hearing this question you should start reading your child’s texts and Facebook pages.

Deciding what age is appropriate to allow teens to begin dating is just the first of many critical issues involving teen dating facing parents today. Parents also need to be acutely aware of the technology our kids are using when they start dating and interacting with the opposite sex.

Past generations did not have the technology that the children of today are using every day. As these teenagers begin to date, they socialize using technology that we could only have dreamed of when we started dating. When we called our girlfriend or boyfriend, their father or mother always answered the phone. Today our children are technologically connected all day and night with one another, and many parents have no idea what their children are talking about. As responsible parents, we need to focus on what this technology is capable of and how our teenagers are using it.

As we already know, our kids have 24 hour access to one another. This generation of young people can communicate whatever they want in an instant. This technology, though convenient, has the capability to cause irreversible damage.

Technology can be very dangerous in the hands of young, unsupervised adolescents. Recently, laws addressing crimes associated with electronic devices have been passed through legislation. Relevant crimes include computer stalking, threats made using electronic devices, harassment by computer and the distribution of child pornography. These crimes can be committed by our children using technology inappropriately and are occurring every day.

Technology is the primary way that teens today socialize with one another. When talking to your child about teen dating, remember that these devices play a big part in how kids communicate their feelings. Once a message or picture is sent, it can be accessed by anyone with a computer. Talk to your kids about using their technology properly and to think before sending any message or picture.

Dating at a young age requires constant parental involvement and guidance. As responsible parents, we need to monitor and protect our children from misusing the technology that they have available to them. Take time to learn about the technology your kids are using and how they are using it. Make sure that they are not sending or receiving inappropriate messages or images that could be harmful to them or to others.



“Protection and Prevention Through Professionalism”