



Community Services

Crime Prevention

Newsletter

Issue No. 60

Jan./Feb. 2020

Social Media



This Edition

- NO-SHAVE FUNDRAISER 2
- TOWING INFORMATION 3
- LEARN & EXPERIENCE 4
- HISPANIC ACADEMY 5

Upcoming Events

Save the Date!
National Night Out
Kick-Off

June 13
5 p.m.
Westchester Commons
Shopping Center
15786 WC Main St.

SELLING OR BUYING STUFF WITH ONLINE APPS?

The opportunities for connection through social media outlets appear endless, providing ways to contact friends old and new, to make purchases, and to sell items that you no longer need. Numerous apps and websites facilitate the quick, easy sale of goods to strangers —much like having a yard sale without the hassle. Nevertheless, for your safety, you should approach buying from and selling to complete strangers with thought and diligence.

The police department has developed a safety tip card that everyone who buys and sells items on the internet should read. The importance of these tips cannot be understated, because there are countless characters who use these sites to rob unsuspecting users.

A most important rule to follow: Do not to meet people at their homes or apartment communities. While it may seem like a lot to ask, people who legitimately have items to sell will understand the need to meet at a more public, monitored area for everyone's safety. If you are attempting to purchase a large item that may be unreasonable to move (tractors, equipment, etc.), there can be a true need to meet at a person's home or place of business. If that is the case, you should take someone with you, if possible, or at least let someone know where you will be. However, when purchasing small items, such as electronics (phones, gaming systems, etc.), there should be no need to meet at a residential location; those transactions should take place in public, populated areas for the safety of all involved parties.

Remember, if a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is and should be ignored. People who are legitimately interested in buying and selling merchandise will find a way to accommodate the safety needs of everyone involved to make the sale. Take a few minutes to review the tips on the card and keep in mind that there is no deal out there worth jeopardizing your safety.

Is This Deal for Real?

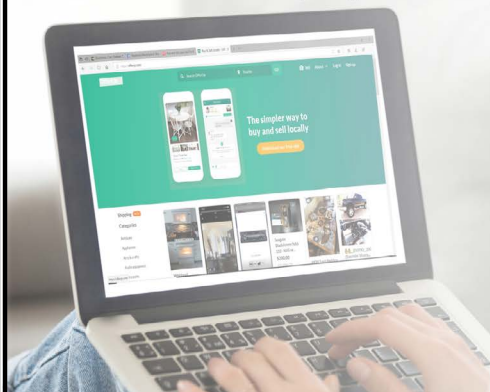
If you're meeting a stranger to buy or sell an item, take steps to stay safe. You can meet at one of the following Chesterfield County Police Department stations to complete your transaction:

10001 Iron Bridge Road
20 N. Providence Road
6812 Woodlake Commons Loop
2920 W. Hundred Road
5701 Jefferson Davis Highway

Other Suggestions:

- Use public places during business hours
- Meet at well lit and populated locations
- Do not go alone
- Confirm the buyer/seller has been verified with the online app

* It is NOT recommended to meet at residences including apartment communities.





For the second year in a row, Colonel Katz authorized participation in No-Shave November to support members of our department who are fighting cancer. No-Shave November began in 2009 as a Facebook campaign to support cancer-based charities and to raise awareness for cancer victims. Since that time, No-Shave November has increased in popularity around the world as a fundraising vehicle.

Participation is simple: department members may eschew shaving for the month of November in exchange for a \$60 donation to the Chesterfield Police Foundation. This year, Colonel Katz expanded the fundraising by adding Head-Shave December. For an additional \$40, department members could keep their beards for the month of December, provided they shaved their heads and maintained a smooth scalp during that time. Over \$15,000 dollars was collected and donated to the foundation.



Corporal Brian Bailey at Carver College and Career Academy put his beard to good use and dressed in the CCPD Santa outfit. He accompanied the counseling staff as they visited each classroom with goodies.



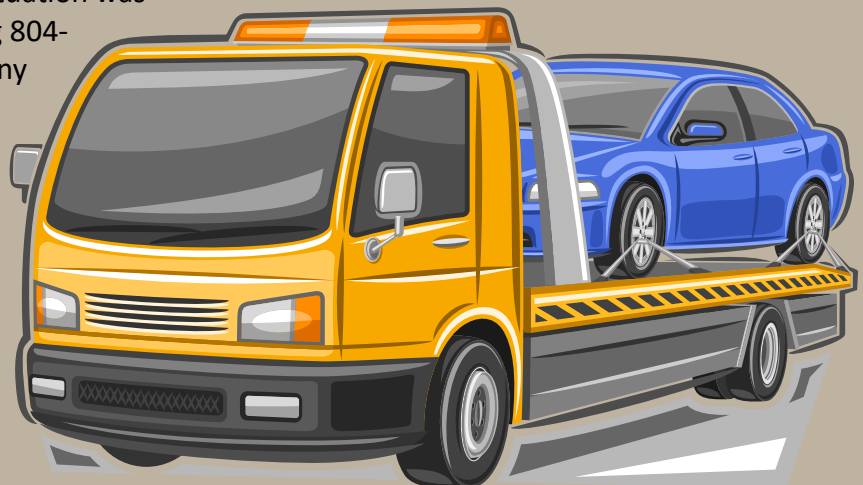
While no one anticipates vehicle breakdowns or traffic crashes, the possibility exists every day. Last year alone, Chesterfield County Police responded to over 3,400 requests for assistance with disabled vehicles and 12,600 crashes. Situations like this can be stressful; therefore, it is a good idea to make advanced preparations. For instance, have a towing company in mind that you trust to tow your vehicle to your home, a repair facility, or a storage lot.

When an officer is called for assistance and it is determined that a tow service is needed, they will ask if you have a preferred tow company. While the officer's primary goal is to assist you, an officer is also focused on quickly clearing the roadway for other traffic and attempting to have a tow company on scene within 30 minutes. If you have selected a tow company in advance that can respond within the 30-minute time frame, the department will contact them. If you do not have a preference, the department utilizes a call list of approved tow companies that will respond within the 30-minute time frame.

Tow companies from the approved call list are under contract by the police department and renewed on an annual basis. The department has an assigned towing coordinator who oversees these companies to ensure that strict guidelines are followed. These contracted tow companies must adhere to all state and local guidelines governing towing and agree to annual audits of storage facilities and equipment used. In addition, limits are set by the Chesterfield County Board of Supervisors for allowable charges for some services.

Occasionally, tow companies not under contract by the department may appear and offer assistance at the scene of an accident or disabled vehicle. Because the police officer cannot make recommendations or discuss fees concerning any towing service, the decision is yours. If you decide to use a tow service that arrives without request and offers a minimal fee for removing your vehicle, be advised that additional fees not regulated by Virginia State Law could exceed those of a regulated company you are familiar with or those contracted by the department.

If your vehicle is towed by a company that is contracted by the Chesterfield County Police Department and you believe you were overcharged or feel your situation was handled improperly, please let us know by calling 804-318-8699. If your situation involves a tow company not contracted by Chesterfield County, the Attorney General's Office for the State of Virginia will investigate your complaint. The Attorney General's Office can be contacted by calling the Consumer Protection Hotline at 800-552-9963 or 804-786-2042 or online at <https://www.oag.state.va.us/consumer-protection/index.php/8-complaints/184-towing-2>.



CCPD INVITES YOU TO...



LEARN



EXPERIENCE

LEARN

The mission of the Chesterfield County Police Crime Prevention Unit is to educate the community about current crime trends and ways to protect yourself, your business, or your place of worship from being a victim of crime. Some of the programs that we offer include:

Frauds and Scams
Active Shooter
Personal Safety

Social Media Awareness
Senior Safety
Security Assessments for Homes & Businesses

To request that a member of our unit visit your organization or event, visit us on the web at www.chesterfield.gov/948/Crime-Prevention and click on Program Request Form.

EXPERIENCE

We also offer Chesterfield County residents and county business owners an opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of police practices and procedures. Offered twice a year, the Citizen's Academy enhances communication between the police department and the community, and, through volunteer programs, allows residents involvement with the police department. Topics include:

Criminal Investigations
Uniform Operations
Fraud Prevention
Crime Prevention Training
Firearms Training Simulator

Forensics
K-9 Demonstrations
Emergency Communications
Open Forum with the Chief of Police
Traffic Laws and RADAR operation

To join one of our academies, fill out the application at chesterfield.gov, email communityservices@chesterfield.gov or call 804-318-8699. A background check is required.



Learn more about your local police department at our 3rd Annual **Hispanic Community Police Academy**

Thursdays

April 2 - May 14, 2020

(no class April 9) 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.



**Chesterfield County
Police Department
Community Services Building
2730 Hicks Road
N. Chesterfield, VA 23235**



**Topics:
History of CCPD
Forensics, K-9, Traffic,
and more!**

Dinner will be provided!



**To sign up, call
Juan Santacoloma at 804-796-7085
Chesterfield County Police Department**

