

Berryville Beat

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Special points of interest:

- Larceny Reduction Tips
- Child Safety Seat Inspections
- Click It or Ticket
- Recognitions
- First Quarter Crime Stats

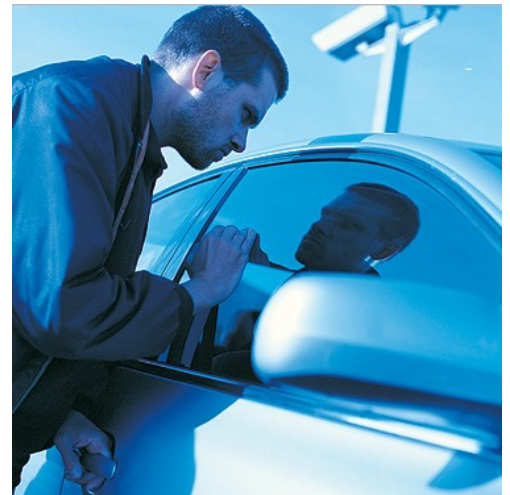
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Secure Your Assets!

While the quaint charm of Berryville is what draws most people to this community, we can not forget that there are those who will prey upon relaxed attitudes for opportunity to do evil. During the warmer months we often see a spike in larceny calls within the Town. A larceny is a crime of opportunity and one of those cases where “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”. A majority of the larceny calls that the department answers deals with theft from automobiles, and of these calls most occur from an unlocked vehicle. So this is where the “ounce of prevention” comes into play.

The first step is to reduce the visibility of valuables within the vehicle. Small electronics and purses are often the targets of thieves, and this opportunity can be removed by storing such items in a trunk or taking them with you into your house. Secondly, remember to lock your vehicle when you park. This is sound advice not only at your house, but also when you stop at the grocery or your child’s soccer game. A final piece of advice is to keep records of your valuables. Items can only be tracked by serial numbers or unique markings if they are to ever be recovered. Stolen items can only be entered into criminal databases when law enforcement has these unique identification numbers, so have these numbers available for verification if you are the victim of larceny.



For crime to happen there has to be certain elements in place. There has to be an offender, opportunity, and the lack of a capable guardian. To reduce crime we can focus on removing or

Berryville Police Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Berryville Police Department is to enhance the quality of life for the citizens of Berryville through a true partnership with the community; provide quality law enforcement service to all without prejudice or bias, and increase public safety through visibility and vigilant enforcement of law thereby reducing the fear and incidence of crime.

Child Safety Seat Inspections

The Berryville Police Department now has three officers that are nationally certified to install child safety seats. The goal of the department is to ensure that children in the community will be as safe as possible while in a vehicle.

The inspection of the car seat entails several elements. The first is to make sure that the seat is appropriate for the age, height and weight of the child. The location of where the

seat is placed in the vehicle is also very important. The seat itself needs to be inspected for damage and recalls. A final step is the actual installation of the seat into the vehicle, making sure that it is installed securely in a pre-crash manner.

The main focus of an installation is education. We want to ensure that all caregivers understand the importance of a properly functioning child safety

seat. It is also essential that all caregivers can duplicate the installation after they have been shown the proper method.

If you would like to have your child safety seat inspected, please call the Berryville Police Department to schedule an appointment. The entire process takes about thirty minutes. You can schedule an appointment by calling 955-3863.



Secure Your Assets! (Continued)

In the case of larcenies, you can remove opportunity and increase the vigilance of a capable guardian. Law enforcement is often cited as the capable guardian in the reduction of crime, but the community can also play a large part by increasing the number of vigilant eyes in the community.

While most of this article so far has centered on larcenies from automobiles, the same logic can be applied to residential larcenies. Reduction of opportunity is again part of the crime triangle that we all can attack to reduce larcenies.

Securing your home and maintaining a “lived in” look sends a signal to thieves that they are unwelcome. Contrary to popular belief, most residential burglaries occur during the day. With the homeowners at work, the thief is less likely to be caught in the act. An alarm system is a good deterrent combined with deadbolt locks that are engaged when you leave the house. Remember that a lock only works if it is engaged. Garage doors should also be closed because they can allow for entry into the house not to mention easy access to valuable items stored within the garage.

With travel season upon us, remember that the Berryville Police Department also does residential security checks while you are on vacation. To be put on a security checklist, contact the department at 955-3863 prior to leaving on vacation.



Click It Or Ticket

The annual focus on occupant protection is again upon us as the “Click It or Ticket” campaign rolls across the nation. The Berryville Police Department will join in this effort through educational and enforcement efforts. Last year the department saw seatbelt usage rates increase from 73% at the beginning of the program to 86% at the conclusion of the enforcement wave. The State usage rate also increased to 82.27% which is the highest in recent history.

While driver belt usage rate have shown improvement over the years, passenger belt usage is still a concern among Virginia law enforcement. It is just as important for passengers to buckle up as it is for the operator’s of the vehicle. Either as a

driver or a passenger it is critical to buckle up every time.

Those who operate trucks are also another target for education efforts this year. Seat belt usage among those traveling in trucks is consistently lower than rates for other vehicles. While trucks may be larger than standard vehicles, it does not necessarily make them safer, especially when seat belts are not properly worn. Trucks can even be more prone to roll-over type accidents as they have higher centers of gravity.

For those who always remember to buckle up, keep up the good work! For the rest of you out there, just remember that law enforcement is watching because we want you to be safe in your travels. If you do not wear your seat belt you should

anticipate that you are eventually going to be cited for the violation.



Upcoming Events

Bicycle Helmet Event— May 8, 2010

10am—12pm

Crow Street Parking Lot

Child Safety Seat Event— May 8, 2010

10am—2pm

Clarke County Ruritan Grounds

Rich Rau Bike Ride— May 22, 2010

8:00 am Duncan Memorial Church

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Commitment—Service—Integrity—Excellence

The Berryville Police Department is dedicated to providing professional law enforcement service to all members of the community. Some additional programs and services provided by the department are listed below. Please contact our office in regards to any inquiries about these programs.

- *Child Safety Seat Inspections*
- *Fingerprinting*
- *Bicycle Registrations*
 - *House Security Checks*
 - *Bicycle Safety Presentations*
 - *General Safety Presentations*
- *Neighborhood Watch Programs*

First Quarter Crime Statistics

During the first quarter of 2010 the Berryville Police Department responded to 407 complaints and calls for service. The top five service calls for the quarter were:

1. Miscellaneous Complaints
2. Suspicious Activities
3. Alarms
4. Assist County
5. Animal Complaints

There were a total of 37 criminal arrests also made during the first quarter. The top five arrest types are as follows:

1. Miscellaneous Arrests
2. Narcotic Violations
3. Drunk in Public
4. Capias Service
5. Brandishing a Firearm

From the traffic safety aspect, 190 citations were issued while 107 warnings for motor vehicle violations were given. 9 traffic crashes were also investigated by the department.

