



For Immediate Release
11/18/2014

Contact: Harrisonburg Police Department
Officer Chris Monahan
540-437-2672
www.harrisonburgva.gov/police

Lock up over Thanksgiving Break

Harrisonburg, VA - The Harrisonburg Police Department would like to reach out to students and other holiday travelers with some important reminders. Routinely, we receive reports of burglaries that occur in off-campus student housing and other residential areas during the holidays.

Whether you are traveling near or far, many of you will be leaving your homes vacant and unattended. HPD urges you to take a few extra moments and make sure your home is secure so that you do not become a victim.

To discourage burglaries, please make sure you secure your homes by locking your doors and windows when you leave. If you have air conditioners, please remove them from the windows. If they cannot be removed make sure they are securely fastened.

Let trusted neighbors know you are going to be away so that they can keep an eye on things. Conversely, if you are going to be staying home, keep an eye on your neighborhood and call 911 if you see anything suspicious.

Since thefts and burglaries are "crimes of opportunity," common sense can help stop criminals. Some other useful safety tips include:

- Don't leave attractive items out in plain sight. Burglars frequently target cash, laptops, bikes, jewelry, video games, bikes, digital cameras and televisions. If possible, take small valuables with when you leave.
- Close your curtains and shades and set a timer for lamps.
- Temporarily stop your mail and delivery's.
- Let a landlord, property owner or neighbor know how long you're going to be gone and how you can be reached in the event of a problem.
- Update or create you home inventory, take photos and document serial numbers.
- Check smoke detectors to make sure they are in working order.

Harrisonburg
VIRGINIA



POLICE DEPARTMENT
101 North Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802
Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 540-434-4436
Chief Stephen P. Monticelli

HPD encourages anyone in the community who observes suspicious or criminal activity to report it by calling 911. Callers are also able to remain anonymous by calling Crime Solvers at 540-574-5050. Tipsters may also text "HPD" plus their tip to CRIMES (274637).

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