

Western District View

Western District Police-Community Relations Council
8273 Telegraph Road, Odenton, Maryland 21113

February 2011

Auto Thefts/Thefts From Autos The next meeting of the Western District Police-Community Relations Council will be on Wednesday, February 9, 2011, in the meeting room at the Western District Station, starting at 7:30 p.m.

With the continuing problem of auto thefts and thefts from autos in the area, we will focus on that this month. Detective T.C. Williams, from the Auto Theft Unit, will discuss auto thefts and Corporal Jimmy Miller, from Crime Prevention, will talk about thefts from autos.

We'll probably get some numbers at the meeting, but in general, a good percentage of these thefts could be prevented if residents would simply take some simple steps to protect their property, starting by locking their vehicle consistently, even in front of the house.

Please plan on attending this meeting, then taking the information back to your community.

Officer of Merit Awards At our following meeting, on Wednesday, March 9th, we will present our annual Officer of Merit Awards to Western District personnel, recognizing them for their efforts on our behalf over the past year.

We will also have a representative of the County Police Crime Lab to discuss their functions and operations. A chance to gain some insight into the real-world CSI and dispel some myths.

Change in Community Alert Notices For some time, there has been a Community Response Network out of Western District, essentially an email network to the communities. That is being replaced by the Nixle Community Information Service. Through this service, residents can receive either emails or cell phone text messages on crime alerts, traffic advisories, urgent public safety notices, as well as other relevant safety and community even information.

There is no charge and the site will not generate spam. If you want to receive this service, register at <https://local.nixle.com/anne-arundel-county-police-department---western-district>. You can get additional information at www.nixle.com.

We will continue to forward crime alert notices until we are comfortable that interested PCRC members have had time to register for this service, so there may be

some duplication for a while. Specific information concerning the PCRC will continue to be distributed through this newsletter or by email.

Shred-A-Rama IV The date for Shred-A-Rama IV has been set: Saturday, May 21, 2011, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. On that date, county residents will be able to bring up to four boxes of personal papers and watch them be safely shredded in a commercial shredding truck. We anticipate that we will use the same four locations in the county, with the Western District site at Cancun Cantina, but will delay location listings until we get the sites locked in.

There is no charge for this service, but donations will be accepted at the sites.

Minutes for January 12, 2011 Meeting The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by the Treasurer's report. With no business meeting in December due to the Holiday Buffet, there were no December minutes.

President Dave Daughters provided some comments on the buffet. In general, all went well. The event was well-attended by Western District personnel and well supported by sponsors, although we are always looking for additional support of any kind. We will make every effort to hold next year's buffet on its regular Wednesday, because the switch to Monday cause logistical problems and inconveniences that we would like to avoid next year.

Dave reminded Captain Flemings that we will need recommendations for the Officer of Merit awards, to be presented in March. He also informed us that Western District has a use for a heavy duty wheeled cooler, which the PCRC can also use during the buffet. This will be added to recommendations for district donations after the March presentations.

Shred-A-Rama IV will take place on Saturday, May 21st, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., provided all coordination and funding efforts proceed as planned. PCRC still needs to find some additional financial sponsors for this event.

Dave then introduced two visitors from County Executive Leopold's Office of Community and Constituent Services – Mark Chang and Jody Leddy. They discussed some of the various services provided by their office, including issues involving traffic patterns and management, environmental studies, financial grants for non-profit organizations, animal control, landfill and recycling policies, potholes, etc. When someone isn't sure who to contact for a county service, or has a complaint, their office can be contacted. Jody advised that it has been recommended that the twice-weekly trash pick-ups be replaced by a single weekly pick-up, coinciding with the pick-up of recyclables. This generated discussion and questions, which were addressed by Mark and Jody. After a general discussion on other issues, Mark and Jody passed out some flyers and pamphlets they hoped would be useful to PCRC members. Jody can be reached at 410-222-1527 (office), 443-370-6690, or jleddy@aacounty.org.

Captain Flemings then presented his report. Western District has lost Executive Officer Lt Zywolek, who has been transferred to Eastern District. Lt. Herbert Hasenpusch, who held the same position at Eastern, is now at Western. Captain Flemings then reviewed some of the interesting crime events in the district and responded to a variety of questions from the audience.

Captain Flemings then presided over the induction of the PCRC officers for 2011: President Dave Daughters, Vice-President Anna Brus, Secretary Rolland "Moose" Amos, and Treasurer Linda Reece.

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.

National Police & Trooper Association A recent caller from New Jersey, sought donations for the National Police & Trooper Association. He was unable to identify anything the association does in Maryland. When asked to mail information without first making a pledge, he said they could only mail something if a pledge was made. The organization's website provides very little information, beyond saying that it is a special program within the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO. They claim to provide specialized service dedicated to the specific needs of troopers and police professionals, such as education, safety surveys and equipment testing, wage and hour "enhancements," organizing, and communicating with like officers and troopers "who comprise the IUPA family." This appears to be extremely vague.

The Better Business Bureau says this business is not currently rated because BBB does not have sufficient information to issue a rating. They give two locations for the association, one in Rancho Cordova, CA; the other in Austin, TX. Charity Navigator has no listing for the organization. An Internet search found very little information about the group, but there were several complaints about their telemarketing tactics from people in Florida, where the group (or another IUPA group) was making calls soliciting donations to the "Florida State Troopers Association," playing on the name of a legitimate group, the Florida Association of State Troopers.

As always, check on any organization seeking your donations, to make sure that they legitimately do what they claim and have a good track record.

Newsletter Distribution If you receive this newsletter by mail, if at all possible, please switch to email distribution. With the number of newsletters going by mail, and talk of another postage increase, it is getting expensive, and we can use the funds towards our assistance to the officers at Western.

If you can, please send me your email address at dldaugh@aol.com. Thanks.

Inclement Weather Policy If there is a snow emergency plan in effect on a PCRC meeting night, the meeting will be cancelled and the evening's program will be re-scheduled for the following month.

Some Final Words In support of the Holiday Buffet, we received donations of food, cash or door prizes from 32 individuals, 11 community organization, two area churches and 15 area business, for a total of 60 donors. Their support made the buffet possible. Thank you letters have been mailed. If I inadvertently missed someone with a letter, my apologies for the oversight.

We welcome Lt. Hasenpusch to Western District and note that in 2006, during a previous assignment to Western as a sergeant, he was a recipient of the PCRC Officer of Merit award.

If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership for 2011.

Dave Daughters
President
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