



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Fred Newman

MEDIA RELEASE

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TO: ALL MEDIA

Agencies Unite to Sponsor Crime Prevention Day

On Friday, May 8th the Washington County Sheriff's Office and Virginia State Police will join forces to sponsor a Public Awareness/Crime Prevention Day.

The event will be held on the Wal-Mart Superstore parking lot near the grocery center. The store is located at 13245 Lee Highway, Bristol, Virginia. The time of the event will be from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and is free to the public.

According to Washington County Sheriff Fred Newman, a number of activities are planned for the event. Such activities include child identification and fingerprinting, seat belt safety, child seat safety and VIN etching.

“Vehicle identification number (VIN) etching is a relatively new method of identifying your vehicle,” stated Sheriff Newman. “It is a process in which the vehicle identification number, as assigned by the manufacturer, is permanently etched into every glass surface of the vehicle as a deterrent to the professional thief. The thief would have to replace every window to change a VIN-etched vehicle's identity. Replacing and destroying the windows of an automobile permanently etched with its vehicle identification number is a job too costly and time consuming for even the most professional thief or chop shop operator,” said Sheriff Fred Newman. “We are not saying your VIN-etched vehicle will never be stolen,; said Newman, “But VIN etching, coupled with other preventative measures such as locking doors, removing valuables from sight, and parking in well-lit areas can greatly reduce the chance.:

VIN etching is a process which involves applying an acid-based paper with the vehicle's VIN to

the glass surface of the vehicle. After a short period of time, the template is removed and the VIN is permanently etched into the glass.

“We are very pleased to have agencies come together to provide these free services to our citizens,” stated Sheriff Newman. “It shows a concerted effort to keep our citizens safe and to also help reduce auto theft.”

For more information concerning the Crime Prevention Day, contact the Washington County Sheriff’s Office at 276-676-6006.