



Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release

Be Bear Aware – It is the Season for Bear Sightings

Virginia is black bear country – including the Vienna area. However, while bears are not a common encounter in our community, multiple sightings are reported each spring and summer as bears wander into residential areas searching for food.

Black bears and their cubs emerge from hibernation from March through May in Virginia and typically avoid humans, of whom they have a natural fear. In most cases would rather flee than encounter people.

We want to share a link to a factsheet from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The factsheet includes helpful information and facts about Black Bears.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/sites/wildlife/files/Assets/Documents/PDF/black-bear-factsheet.pdf>

Unless the animal is sick or injured or poses a threat to public safety, the Vienna Police Department does not take action to remove bears from a neighborhood.

As a reminder, bear sightings should be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline at (855) 571-9003, TTY 711.

**Report Bear Sightings to the Virginia Wildlife Conflict
Helpline 1-855-571-9003**

**Please contact MPO Juan Vazquez for further information at
juan.vazquez@viennava.gov or 703-255-7845**