



InfoLink

Information for Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Professionals

FARA InfoLink February, 2013

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Thanks to Institute Sponsors!

Without the FARA Institute and our generous contributors, FARA training symposiums would not be possible. Many, many heartfelt thanks go out to all of our Institute donors as follows:

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National Electronic Security Alliance (NESA)
Texas Burglar & Fire Alarm Association (TBFAA)

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Monitronics Security
Vector Security, Inc.

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IE Alarm Systems

Meet You in Orlando!

Brad Shipp, FARA



We are ready! The classes have been set. The instructors and moderators have been selected. We only need you to show up for this excellent training. So, finalize your plans for the Orlando symposium. Orlando, Florida is the place to be for the dates of April 23 - 25, 2013!

Rates Go up on Feb 25th!

Register with FARA

[Download a packet](#)

Book Your Room

DoubleTree by Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando
5780 Major Blvd.
Orlando, FL 32819

Call 800-327-2110 by 2/25/13

Use code ALA for FARA Regular Rate (\$125)

Use code ALG for FARA Government Rate (\$111)

Or visit the special FARA hotel site to book your room

[Click here to register for Hotel Government rate online](#)

[Click here to register for Hotel Regular rate online](#)

Check out the [Visit Orlando web site](#) to see what's happening in Orlando during the symposium dates. This is a great website for visitors to search out activities and events in Orlando.

Time is running out for you to apply for FARA Institute Reimbursement funds. So, it's time to submit your request for permission to attend this awesome training opportunity; then complete the reimbursement application and return it as soon as possible. Institute funds are limited and are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't procrastinate, or you will only be hearing about the great training other FARA member received.

COME TO ORLANDO!!!

Attention Symposium Attendees breakfast will not be provided at the 2013 Symposium, FARA Board of Directors felt it was important to reduce expenses allowing more funding for FARA's Scholarship Program

Candidates Have Filed for the Election

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

This year several positions will be up for election at the Orlando Symposium, including:

- Vice President-Electronic Security – Deborah Hansen, Naperville Police Department, Naperville, IL
- Secretary – Pam Steiger, Louisville Metro Police Department, Louisville, KY
- At-Large Director – David Wilson, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department, Charlotte, NC
- At-Large Director – Stacey Peacock, Barnstable Police Department, Barnstable, MA
- Associate Director-Electronic Security – Pat Killian, Vector Security, Richmond, VA

Stacey Peacock & Pat Killian have indicated that they will not be seeking re-election

The following candidates have filed to be elected

- **Vice President – Electronic Security**
 - Debbie Hansen, CAM False Alarm Reduction Coordinator - Naperville Police Department
- **Directors at Large**
 - Pam Steiger, Records Supervisor I - Louisville Metro Police Department
 - David Wilson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
- **For Secretary**
 - Shellie Reid, CAM, Alarm Administrator, False Alarm Reduction Unit, Loudoun County (VA) Sheriff's Office
- **For Electronic Security Associate Director**
 - Candidate: Kathleen Schraufnagel, Monitronics

Candidate Bio & Statements

Shellie Reid

Shellie graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1989 with a degree in Police Administration and a minor in Business. She continued her education by studying toward certificates in education and law. She has also achieved the ranking of Certified Alarm Manager. Never satisfied with the status quo, Shellie continues studying to become a subject matter expert in her field.

As a military spouse who moved roughly 13 times in 16 years before her husband's retirement, she juggled family demands with career options--often taking positions simply to gain a new or different perspective. As a result, she worked in positions ranging from retail management to education. In the late 90's, she was hired by the Prince William County (VA) Police Department and attended their police academy before the navy shipped the family off to Japan. While living in Japan, she studied the Japanese language. She also taught craft classes to military spouses and Japanese nationals, English as a Second Language in a Japanese Elementary School, and even did a stint as hair model for Japanese beauticians practicing for international competitions. Somewhere in there, she also found the time to homeschool her children.

In 2008, Shellie was hired as a Public Safety Services Technician for Prince William County Police Department. In this position, she served as "station mom" while performing a varied set of support tasks. During this time, she developed a database program to track maintenance schedules for the patrol fleet. She also learned how to perform maintenance on tint meters, tasers, and alco-sensors and helped to eliminate tickets being thrown out due to lack of required maintenance on equipment.

In November 2010, she was hired by Loudoun County to head the False Alarm Reduction Unit. She likes to say that the position of Alarm Administrator was made specifically for her since she utilizes skills learned throughout her career. Her background and law enforcement training make her uniquely suited to understanding the needs and providing support for patrol operations. During her time in the unit, she has worked toward full enforcement of the county alarm ordinance. Shellie takes every opportunity to educate the public on false alarm reduction. She recently pushed to be allowed to teach a segment on false alarms during the Citizens Police Academy held by her department. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and Shellie has been asked to return for the 3rd time.

Shellie currently serves as President of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Chair of the Website Committee, and Reporter for the Training and Certification Committee. When she is not at work, Shellie enjoys creative endeavors such as rubber stamping, jewelry making, stained glass creating, and scrapbooking.

Kathleen Schraufnagel, Monitronics

Kathleen has been in the security industry since 1991. She currently serves in the capacity of Industry Relations Liaison and Guard Services Coordinator for Monitronics. She is a Past President of the North Texas Alarm Association (NTAA) and currently serves as their Assistant Secretary. She has also served on the Board of the Texas Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (TBFAA) and held several committee chair positions for that organization through the years. Additionally, she has held chairmanships of various Electronic Security Association (ESA) committees, all of which were directly related to the reduction of false alarms as well as participating in a multi-association "Think Tank" to research and implement new false alarm reduction measures nationwide. She has also become active in the Central Station Alarm Association representing Monitronics.

Kathleen has a long history of working closely with law enforcement and other government agencies as well as representing the security industry to law enforcement associations. She has taught numerous Understanding Alarms classes both to law enforcement at their training academies and citizens in conjunction with law enforcement false alarm management programs for a number of cities in North Texas and for the Texas Crime Prevention Association.

Kathleen also has a long history with FARA. She has been a member of the organization since 1998 and has attended all but the very first annual symposium. She is an Essentials of False Alarm Reduction Certified Instructor. She has gladly served the organization in a variety of positions and has been an active member of all committees at some point through the years. She has been Chairperson and Co-Chair of the Conference Committee and the Communications Committee. She also looks forward to participating in the FARA Mid-Atlantic Chapter soon. Kathleen has previously served the FARA organization on the Board as both the Fire Associate Director and Electronic Security Associate Director.

She would be proud to serve FARA again as the Electronic Security Associate Director.

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Nominations Needed for FARA Members of the Year!

By: Natasha Pitts, Awards Committee

The FARA Norma C. Beaubien Public Safety and W. Rex Bell Associate Member of the Year Awards are the highest honor FARA gives to deserving individuals, who demonstrate a significant commitment and contribute the most to their department or company, the community they serve and to FARA.

Do you know anyone who fits this bill? Please tell us and let us honor them with these coveted awards. Both public safety and associate members can submit nominations for either category.

Please submit your written nomination by February 21 detailing the reasons you believe the individual nominated deserves such an award.

Please limit your nomination to one (1) page or less. Please submit your nominations to FARA c/o Brad Shipp at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com or via fax at 301/519-9508.

Past recipients of the Norma C. Beaubien Public Safety Member of the Year Award are:

2012- Debbie Hansen & Amy Lowe
2011- Stacey Peacock & Sue Clark
2010- Steve Heggemann
2009- Gerry Miller
2008- Natasha Pitts
2007- Christine Van Geest
2006- Brad Wahab
2005- Patty Bimonte
2004- Rick Moore
2003- Rex Bell
2002- Denise Shaw & Amy Lobdell
2001- James Cogswell
2000- W. Patrick Kenny
1999- Shanna Werner
1998- Patti Rea and Norma Beaubien

Past recipients of the W. Rex Bell Associate Member of the Year Award are:

2012- Joe Carr & Cindy Smith
2011- Stuart Forchheimer & Kristina Walker
2010- Ben Binder
2009- Mary Galloway
2008- John Tierney
2007- Kelly Maceranka
2006- Chris Russell
2005- Pat Killian
2004- Tony Fague
2003- Not awarded
2002- Ron Walters & Brad Shipp
2001- Kathleen Schraufnagel
2000- Jennifer Gehring
1999- Susan Brenton
1998- Matt Wald

Nominations for FARA Achievement Awards Needed!

By Brad Shipp, FARA

Are you proud of your alarm management program?

Do you have a terrific success story to share?

Do you want the world to know about it?

Then tell us!

Please send in your nominations for FARA's False Alarm Reduction Achievement Awards.

Feel free to nominate your own agency/company or others. Both public safety and associate members can submit nominations for any category listed below.

All submitted nominations will be provided to the attendees in Albuquerque. All attendees will then cast a vote on who their favorite is in each category. So make the sale for your nomination by giving enough information to allow the voters to understand what the accomplishment is and how you were able to achieve it. You may use text, charts, graphs or any combination of the three.

Please limit your nomination to no more than two (2) pages in length. The Achievement Awards will be presented during the training symposium.

- **Public Safety False Alarm Reduction Achievement Award:** This award is presented to the public safety agency that has an alarm management program, which has shown meaningful or significant reduction in the number of false alarms over a 3 to 5 year period.
- **Industry False Alarm Reduction Achievement Award:** This award is presented to an individual alarm company that has implemented and sustained an alarm management program, which has shown meaningful or significant reduction in the number of false alarms over a 3 to 5 year period.
- **FARA Achievement Award:** This award is presented to an individual, company or association that has demonstrated significant or meaningful contributions toward the FARA mission.

Nominations must be submitted on or before April 20, 2012 to be considered.

Please submit your nominations to FARA c/o Brad Shipp at bradshipp@4yoursolution.com or via fax at 301/519-9508.

News from the Membership Committee

By: Emily Pleasance, Membership Committee

Have you...

- **Completed your Symposium Registration Packet?**
- **Booked your flight and hotel accommodations?**
- **Started packing? Well, maybe it is a bit too early**

If you have **not** crossed off the first 2 items on the list...

What are you waiting for?

Budget Restrictions preventing you from attending?

Take advantage of another membership benefit and apply for a **FARA Institute Reimbursement.**

Contact Us E-Mail: info@faraonline.org

Website: <http://www.faraonline.org>

The Membership Committee wants **you** to...
Get the MOST out of your Membership by joining us at the Symposium in Orlando, Florida!

- ✓ **Interactive Training Sessions**
- ✓ **Network with Public Safety and Alarm Industry professionals across the US & Canada**
- ✓ **Become a Certified Alarm Manager**

CAM Spotlight – Sherry Couey

By Shellie Reid, T & C Committee Member

The CAM spotlight is a fun way for members to meet others working in a similar position while learning a bit about the benefits of taking the certification exam. This month we jump to North Carolina to meet Sherry Couey and I wish that the CAM Spotlight was verbal because everyone needs to hear Sherry's southern drawl. I grew up in Florida so I have a drawl of my own, but the Carolinas have their own sweet version. Talking to Sherry takes me immediately back to memories of hot summer days under a shade tree. Grab a glass of ice tea and enjoy learning a bit about Sherry.



BIOGRAPHY

Current Position

Alarm Coordinator, Fayetteville Police Dept. N.C., (16 years)

Hobbies or Interests

I like spending time with my grandchildren and I participate in activities with my church. I also enjoy working out. I am very fortunate that my department offers police employees training in Crossfit. That really helps to keep up with my grandchildren, ages 2 and 7.

How long have you been a member of FARA and do you participate in any FARA committees or activities?

I joined FARA I believe around 1999 or 2000, after attending a local regional training class by FARA. I have participated on the Training and Certification Committee for the last 3 or so years. I am currently serving as the Committee Chairperson. I have also been very fortunate to attend the last 5 symposiums and will be attending this year as well.

CERTIFIED ALARM MANAGER EXPERIENCE

- **When you did you first obtain your certification?**

I took the test in Charleston in 2009.

- **How long had you worked in an alarm unit/the industry before taking the exam?**

About 10 years

- **What made you decide to take the exam?**

It was a last minute decision. I thought it would be helpful, particularly in dealing with our local alarm industry.

- **Did you receive any response from employers, alarm industry, family, or members of the community about your achievement?**

I did receive very positive feedback from my department and local alarm industry leaders after a press release was put out.

- **Do you think accomplishing your certification has benefited your career or position as an alarm manager/coordinator?**

Absolutely! Especially when I met with local alarm industry persons. I believe it shows I have better understanding of the industry and how alarm systems work. It also shows that I have a lot of knowledge of proven methods of false alarm reduction. I think having the certification does demand a little respect from my chain of command and gives them even more confidence in my ability to do my job.

- **Has it made a difference in what you do or how you do things?**

I would say yes, I found better ways to communicate with other alarm managers, alarm users and alarm industry persons in my state. It certainly is a confidence booster when attending meetings with alarm users and the alarm industry.

- **Do you think others could benefit from achieving their Certification status?**

Of course, for some of the same reason I did. Having that certification shows you have a better working knowledge of false alarm reduction and prevention and industry practices. Knowledge and education are everything!

- **Where is your certificate now?**

It is proudly displayed on my bookshelf in my office for the entire world to see. I like to joke that I display my certificate so others can bask in my glory, lol! Yes, that is a joke everyone!

Baby, It's cold outside!



Stay warm inside and become a Certified Alarm Manager.

See the Certification section of the website on the Info for Members tab.

Website Committee Bits

By Shellie Reid, Committee Chair

What's new on the website this month?

Committees are really embracing the opportunity to personalize their pages. Several committees have really taken advantage of the ability to control their window to the world. If your committee just has no idea where to start, consider contacting me for some hands on instruction. The membership committee recently scheduled one of these "behind the scenes tours" to learn how to edit their pages. It was great to feel their excitement and their interest, and I appreciate that so many of their members took the time for this call. They asked lots of great questions, and I think they know who should not be in charge of editing their pages :) Be sure to visit their pages over the next few months as they implement their ideas.

The next Website Committee meeting will be held on March 6th. If you are interested in attending this teleconference, [email me](#) for details.

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meeting

PLEASE JOIN US!

The False Alarm Reduction Association Mid-Atlantic Chapter Meeting will meet on Wednesday, March 27th from 10 AM until noon. The meeting will be held at Vintage Security LLC - 8220 A Stayton Dr., Jessup MD 20794.

Elections will be held!

RSVP by noon on March 15 to shellie.reid@loudoun.gov or 703-737-8165

Featured Resource – Audio & Video Verification Bulletin

By Brad Shipp, FARA

This bulletin reviews the different types or methods of audio & video verification methods.

The full list of FARA other presentations and publications can be accessed on our [web site](#). Copies can be downloaded from the member's only site.



FARA's Believe it or Not

By: Brad Shipp, FARA

From Recent News headlines –

- **AZ: Stupid Criminal Tricks Continue**
2.1.13 - Payson Roundup - Payson, AZ - McNerny learned all of the employees knew the alarm code and that Gibson and another employee had closed up the night before. When Gibson stopped to ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Cockfighting, bungling burglar and stolen truck**
2.13.13 - Examiner.com - Burson CA - Tuolumne County Sheriff's Deputies arrested Christopher Weakley, a 28 year-old resident of Sonora peddling away from the scene of a security alarm having ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Fire Alarm Leads To Discovery Of Large-Scale Marijuana Grow In ...**
1.27.13 - CBS Local - Eastvale, CA (CBSLA.com) - A sounding fire alarm at an Eastvale home led to the discovery of a large-scale marijuana grow, authorities announced Sunday. [More Info](#)
- **CT: Chips Fall the Wrong Way for Alleged Local Burglar**
1.18.13 - Patch.com - South Windsor, CT - A Vernon man's quest for a midnight snack was interrupted by an officer responding to an alarm call early Thursday morning, according to an arrest report. [More Info](#)
- **NY: Stupid thief in 'slip'-up**
1.29.13 - New York Post - East Meadow, NY - The suspect asked, "Did somebody press the alarm?" and ran out, half an hour later, the thief - about 30 years old - showed up at TD Bank in East Meadow. [More Info](#)

Do you have any stories you would like to share about stupid criminals or strange, unusual, or funny reasons for false alarms? How about outlandish things that happen in the course of your usual work day? I know we all have them, so let's share and give everyone a chuckle! Please forward your stories to lespinosa@beavertonoregon.gov and we'll put them in the next InfoLink for all to share!

Joke of the Month

When I worked for the security department of a large retail store, my duties included responding to fire and burglar alarms. A side door of the building was wired with a security alarm, because it was not supposed to be used by customers.

Nevertheless they found the convenience of the exit tempting. Even a sign with large red letters, warning "Alarm will sound if opened," failed to deter people from using it. One day, after attending to a number of shrieking alarms, I placed a small handmade sign on the door that totally eliminated the problem: "Wet paint."

From Zoomer.com

Do you have any great jokes to share? Please send them to lespinosa@beavertonoregon.gov

Frederick County MD Moves To Repeal Alarm System Registration Ordinance

2.7.13 - Frederick County Press Release - Frederick, MD - Ordinance failed to reduce false alarms... The Frederick Board of County Commissioners today voted unanimously to take to public hearing an ordinance which would repeal the Alarm System Registration Ordinance.

The Alarm System Registration Ordinance went into effect in August 2000 as a means of reducing or eliminating false alarms and to encourage alarm users and alarm companies to maintain operational reliability and proper use of the alarm systems. Alarm companies and residential and non-residential alarm users have been required to register and pay fees to support the program.

Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins appeared before the board to urge the repeal of the ordinance. He said, "This ordinance never achieved its goals to reduce or eliminate false alarms. In 2006, law enforcement personnel responded to 3,120 alarms. In 2010 we responded to 3,199 and in 2011 the response was to 2,886. In 2012, we responded to 2,935 alarms. The registration system never achieved what it was set out to do and we continue to respond to these alarms, the majority of which are false alarms. This program never did more than generate revenue from alarm users and it is an unproductive use of our public safety personnel."

Board President Blaine Young wholeheartedly agreed with Sheriff Jenkins. He commented, "This ordinance comes at a significant cost to alarm companies, businesses, homeowners and to the county without achieving the intended benefit and primary objective. We believe it should be repealed, and today's action is the first step in taking it to a public hearing to achieve that goal. This board continues to work toward '[business friendly](#)' initiatives for Frederick County citizens such as the repeal of this onerous ordinance."

Repeal of the ordinance will result in a budgetary savings of \$67,000.

For further information, contact Director Gary Hessong, Permits and Inspections Department, at 301-600-1172 or via e-mail at ghessong@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

FBI starts website to help catch bank robbers

1.11.13 - WNEW-TV - The FBI has launched a website aimed at catching bank robbers. The website features surveillance pictures of bank robbers about whom the authorities are seeking leads and tips. Visitors also can search for bank robbery investigations and see them plotted on a map. Timothy Gallagher of the FBI's Washington field office says the FBI uses electronic media in so many of its cases now and the new website is simply a utilization of that technology. [More Info](#)

FBI data: Crime reported by law enforcement rises

1.14.13 - FBI.gov - The number of violent crimes reported by law enforcement for the first six months of 2012 increased 1.9 percent, compared with figures from the same period in 2011, according to statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigations' Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report. Property crimes also rose 1.5 percent overall. [More Info](#)

News on Door to Door Sales

Courtesy of NESAs

- **How to Avoid Tricky Home Security and Alarm System Scams- Tip ...**
1.28.13 -Virtual-Strategy Magazine - There are hundreds and even thousands of home security and alarm system scams reported each year, in particular as a result of door-to-door sales ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Alarm sales tactics cause concern in Ripon**
1.15.13 - Modesto Bee - Ripon, CA -- Ripon police have heard from several residents concerned about misinformation given during door-to-door sales of alarms. A representative of an area ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Door-to-door alarm system sales firms to pay \$525000 settlement**
2.2.13 - San Jose Mercury News - Martinez, CA -- Two businesses that sell fire alarm systems and security monitoring services have been ordered to pay \$525,000 and to upgrade their business ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Tell Mel: Alarm system sold by convict**
1.19.13 - The News-Press - Lee County, FL - If you can't trust your alarm company to keep you safe, whom can you trust? That's what two Lee County women want to know after they ... [More Info](#)
- **NC: Action 9: Woman wants out of contract with alarm company**
2.14.13 - WSOC – Charlotte, NC - One local woman signed up with an alarm company to make her home feel safer, but she quickly found out it was her bank account that need protection. [More Info](#)
- **NC: Calls About More Burglaries May Not Be True**
1.15.13 - WITN - Washington, NC - Officials say the N.C. Attorney General's Office received more than 600 calls in 2012 about getting telemarketing calls pitching alarm systems. The call often ... [More Info](#)
- **NY: Wave of Telemarketing Scams Targeting Seniors, BBB Says**
2.1.13 - WBNG-TV - Johnson City, NY - The alarm, warns the recording, is necessary to protect against a long list of dangers, ... It claims that you can get an alarm system worth several hundred dollars ... [More Info](#)
- **PA: Police warn of phone scam in Manchester Township**
1.18.13 - FOX43.com - Manchester Township, PA - He then offered to come and install an alarm system in the resident's home. The caller requested that the payment be wired to him before he installed the system. [More Info](#)
- **TX: BBB: Scam targets seniors**
2.4.13 - Times Record News - Wichita Falls, TX - The alarm, warns the recording, is necessary to protect against a long list of dangers, ... It claims that you can get an alarm system worth several hundred dollars ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: BBB: Wave of telemarketing scams target seniors**
2.17.13 - Odessa American – Odessa, TX - The recording claims the alarm will protect against dangers such as break-ins and ... In this case, the call alarms seniors by describing a situation where they are ... [More Info](#)
- **TX: Scams Still Targeting Seniors In Central Texas**
2.7.13 - KWTX - Waco, TX -Seniors in Central Texas and all across the nation have been hit especially hard with scams that center around an alarm system. [More info](#)

Public Safety Updates

Courtesy of NESAs

- **Survey: Law enforcement slow to adopt cloud computing**
2.3.13 - FierceGovernmentIT - Cloud computing adoption remains low among law enforcement agencies, according to the results of a recent survey. [More Info](#)
- **AL: Foley is eliminating alarm-registration fees**
1.14.13 - Gulf Coast News Today - Foley, AL - That's because during its regular meeting Monday, the Foley City Council agreed to change its current city ordinance regarding fire-and burglar alarms within the ... [More Info](#)
- **AZ: Surprise seeks advice on false alarm ordinance**
2.12.13 - YourWestValley.com - Surprise, AZ - Provide for an appeal system should the police department initially determine the alarm to be false; in addition, the ordinance would provide the following ... [More Info](#)
- **CA: Fees Placed On 911 Hang-Ups And False Alarms**
2.15.13 – KIEM - Crescent City, CA- 911 hang-ups and false alarms could now cost you some out of pocket cash if you live in Crescent City. The City Council passed ... [More Info](#)
- **CT: New Canaan Firefighters Happy About Fewer False Alarms**
1.17.13 -The Daily Voice - New Canaan, CT - But Assistant Fire Chief John Hennessey says he's happiest with the reduction in false alarms. Firefighters responded to 439 false alarms in 2012, down from ... [More Info](#)
- **CT: Stamford smoke alarm ordinance takes effect**
1.14.13 - The Advocate - Stamford, CT - Mayor Michael Pavia's office has issued a news release reminding residents about the new law's requirements. The Board of Representatives passed the ... [More Info](#)

- **CT: Wilton selectmen pass alarm ordinance revisions**
1.29.13 - The Hour - Wilton, CT - The Board of Selectmen unanimously accepted changes to the town's house alarm systems ordinance last week, increasing fines for unnecessary ... [More Info](#)
- **FL: Sheriff announces website makeover**
1.21.13 - Historic City News - St Johns County, FL - Some of the useful features of our website include the ability to register your alarm system, a Citizen's Comment Form for communicating both praise and ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: City council aims to curb false alarms**
2.13.13 - Johns Creek, GA - NeighborNewspapers.com - In an attempt to reduce false alarms drawing police and fire personnel away from potential emergencies, Johns Creek City Council approved a false alarm ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: City sets fines for 'excessive' false alarms**
2.8.13 - Reporter Newspapers – Dunwoody, GA - Homeowners and businesses must register their burglar alarms with the city and pay fines after two false alarms under a new ordinance adopted ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: Dunwoody adopts false alarm ordinance**
1.29.13 - Reporter Newspapers - Dunwoody, GA - City Council has adopted an ordinance that will require alarm owners to register their systems with the city and pay fines after several false alarms. [More Info](#)
- **GA: Holly Springs mulls alarm ordinance**
1.16.13 - Cherokee Ledger - Holly Springs, GA - Repeat false alarms, according to Holly Springs Police Chief Ken Ball, can be a drain on city resources and also can put officers in danger. [More Info](#)
- **GA: Johns Creek Approves 'False Alarm' Ordinance**
2.12.13 - Patch.com - Johns Creek, GA - If "you pass this ordinance ordinance, you'll see the number of false alarms drop drastically," said Johns Creek Fire Chief Jeff Hogan. He described the ... [More Info](#)
- **GA: Possible ordinance aims to reduce false alarms**
1.30.13 - NeighborNewspapers.com - Johns Creek, GA - City Council is considering measures to limit false alarms that call on Johns Creek Police and Fire Departments when there is no emergency. [More Info](#)
- **IL: Chicago police to stop dispatch for certain crimes**
2.4.13 - PoliceOne.com - Chicago, IL - Chicago police will no longer respond in person to crimes in which no one is in imminent danger, hoping to free up an equivalent of about 44 officers a day to s...top more threatening crimes: [More Info](#)
- **IL: Pittsfield alderman, mayor vote down plans for ordinance clearing ...**
2.6.13 - Quincy Herald Whig – Pittsfield, IL - 19 Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss a growing concern with false alarm ... developing an ordinance outlining consequences for repeat false alarm calls. [More Info](#)
- **LA: City awards employee of the month ...**
1.17.13 -Leesville Daily Leader - Leesville, LA - There is a problem in the city with false security alarms. A false alarm ordinance similar to DeRidder's was discussed, with the business owner being more ... [More Info](#)
- **MI: Elkhart officials alarmed by business' faulty security system**
2.14.13 - Elkhart Truth - Elkhart, MI - Since March 2012, there were more than 30 reports of false alarms at Begley Automotive Inc., 1201 ... Seven to 10 incidents draw a \$50 fine for each false alarm. [More Info](#)
- **MN: Two service fees updated by Upsala City Council**
2.4.13 - Dairyland Peach - Sauk Centre, MN - The other fee that was updated is the cost of a false fire alarm. Previously, three false alarms per year were allowed without cost, while each subsequent false ... [More Info](#)
- **NJ: Livingston Council Discusses Success of Shuttle**
1.30.13 - TheAlternativePress.com - Livingston, NJ - Township Manager Michele Meade explained that the ordinance would state that alarm system users would be allowed two free "false alarms" before getting ... [More Info](#)
- **NJ: To stop burglars, report suspicious sightings, Clinton Twp. police plead**
1.25.13 - Hunterdon County Democrat - NJ.com - Clinton Twp, NJ - "Don't be afraid of calling us," even if it's a false alarm, Manney said. "We'd rather go to a 'nothing' call than have somebody hurt or a burglary" take place, ... [More Info](#)
- **NM: City agrees to extend reused water line**
2.17.13 - Rio Rancho Observer - Rio Rancho. NM - Passed the first reading of amendments to the alarm system ordinance. Changes would require that alarm installation companies notify customers of provisions ... [More Info](#)
- **NM: New Las Cruces ordinance will levy fines for false alarm calls**
1.24.13 - Las Cruces Sun-News - Las Cruces, NM - A new ordinance regulating alarm systems for homes and commercial businesses will go into effect Saturday, but the enforcement of fines that ... [More Info](#)
- **NY: Cops giving New York City pharmacies OxyContin bottles equipped ...**
1.15.13 - New York Daily News - New York, NY - Kelly said police are visiting pharmacies to make security recommendations, such as installing alarm systems and keeping stores well-lit after hours. In the next ... [More Info](#)

- **NY: Police Commissioner Says Video Tech Solves Crime, Increases Safety**
1.29.13 - Government Video - During 2012, New York City law enforcement dependence on video technology to solve crimes and support public safety increased tremendously, and police will depend on that technology even more in 2013, said Police Commissioner Ray Kelly during the annual State of the NYPD Address. [More Info](#)
- **OH: Police issue citations for repeated false alarms: University Heights ...**
2.13.13 - Plain Dealer - University Heights, OH -False Alarms, Multiple Locations: Citations for false alarms were delivered Feb. 4 to Family Dollar and Feb. 7 to Gesu School, ... [More Info](#)
- **OH: Proposal: Fines for false alarms**
1.31.13 - Warren Tribune Chronicle - Warren, OH - Police and fire personnel responded to an average of 3,500 home and business alarms annually over the last five years, and between 90 percent ... [More Info](#)
- **PA: Town seeks stiffer penalties for chronic false fire alarms**
1.22.13- Security Info Watch - Lower Macungie, PA - Violators can currently be fined a maximum of \$300 in Lower Macungie [More Info](#)
- **SC: False alarms become nuisance, fines needed, Hilton Head fire chief ...**
2.2.13 - Hilton Head Island Packet - Hilton Head, SC - Nineteen times last year, the Town of Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Division sent fire engines -- sirens blaring and lights flashing -- to the same resort hotel. [More Info](#)
- **SC: Hilton Head, SC fire chief pushes for false alarms fines**
2.6.13 - SecurityInfoWatch - Feb. 03--Nineteen times last year, the Town of Hilton Head Island Fire & Rescue Division sent fire engines -- sirens blaring and lights flashing -- to the same ...[More Info](#)
- **TX: False-alarm fees change for unincorporated areas**
1.15.13 - Houston Chronicle - Harris County, TX - Where to find a permit form: Go to www.hcso.hctx.net and click on the "Alarm permits" ... Penalties: Owners of alarm systems that have no permit may be issued a ... [More Info](#)
- **VA: Panic buttons installed in Culpeper buildings**
1.21.13 - Fredericksburg.com - Culpeper, VA - "There was also an exterior door of the courthouse that had no alarm and would ... The alarm system, which cost about \$20,000 to install, has already been used ... [More Info](#)
- **WY: Should you pay for a false alarm?**
1.16.13 -Gillette News Record - Gillette, WY - Police want to reduce the number of false burglar alarms at homes that have risen exponentially in the last few years and propose to do ... [More Info](#)

Industry News

Courtesy of NESAs

- **How dealers can help reduce false alarms**
1.14.13 - SecurityInfoWatch - False alarms aren't just an annoyance for homeowners. They can cost local authorities millions of dollars and valuable man hours each year, resulting in hefty ... [More Info](#)
- **State of the Industry 2013**
1.16.13 - CEPro - Integrators report 5% increase in revenues and predict 13% growth for 2013. Housing market activity jumps dramatically. [More Info](#)
- **Police Dispatch Quality (PDQ) Award Program Now Accepting Entries**
1.22.13 - Security Sales & Integration - Nominations are being accepted for the eighth annual Police Dispatch Quality (PDQ) Award program. Entries are due Feb. 28, 2013. [read more](#)
- **Utah Startup Creates State-of-the-Art Security System**
1.25.13 - KUTV - Peak Alarm is the company responsible for keeping the Crown Jeweler and Pawn ... At Peak Alarm, they see all kinds of break-ins from amateurs to professional ... [More Info](#)
- **Cox launches home security service in Virginia**
1.24.13 - Security Info Watch - After a piloting its home security service in Arizona in 2011 and expanding into four additional markets last year, Cox Communications recently announced that it is expanding the service into Virginia. The move comes just weeks after AT&T announced plans to roll out its "Digital Life" services to eight markets in March. [More Info](#)
- **ASG Security Ends 2012 With \$530K in RMR From Acquisitions**
1.16.13 - Security Sales & Integration - Beltsville, MD - ASG Security closed out 2012 by acquiring four alarm companies in December, totaling \$155,000 in recurring monthly revenue (RMR). [More Info](#)
- **Dish Network may offer home security service, still in negotiations ...**
1.30.13 - Denver Post - The satellite-TV provider would resell the service, generically branded as alarm.com in the video, through a third-party company called Vivint. One possible ... [More Info](#)
- **Cox Communications to offer home security in Virginia**
1.24.13 - Security Info Watch - Company to enter new market after four roll outs in 2012 [More Info](#)

- **Protection 1 Expands IT Capabilities With Pinnacle Security Buy**
1.30.13 - Romeoville, IL - Continuing on its quest to build an IT-centric company, Protection 1 has purchased certain proprietary IT assets from summer sales model company Pinnacle Security. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. [More Info](#)
- **CSG closes year with three fold-in acquisitions**
1.30.13 - Security Systems News - Tulsa, OK - Company adds mostly residential accounts in three states. Central Security Group closed 2012 with three fold-in acquisitions that have expanded the company's presence in Oklahoma, Arkansas and California. [More Info](#)
- **Moving verified monitoring to public-private partnerships**
2.8.13 - Security Info Watch - Monitoring of alarms has been around—well, since the beginning of the industry. But has it lost its pizzazz with mass-marketed alarms and self-monitoring via smartphones, iPads and other connectivity devices? Have we diluted our value proposition? [More Info](#)
- **Pinnacle Security fined more than \$500000**
2.4.13 - Security Systems News - The deal has great potential, according to an alarm company owner who has married both models. But it appears that problems from Pinnacle's past continue to ... [More Info](#)
- **Telguard communicator meets 2013 NFPA 72 requirements**
2.4.13 - Security Systems News - The latest edition of NFPA 72, the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code, allows sole-path cellular communications to be supervised for commercial fire ... [More Info](#)
- **Calif. company sued over sales calls**
2.7.13 - Legal News Line - Maximum Security Alarm Inc. allegedly tried to sell Missourians home security services after reaching them by phone. Koster's lawsuit requests that the court ... [More Info](#)
- **Home Intruder Impersonates ADT Tech**
2.5.13 - Security Sales & Integration - Police have charged a 48-year-old man here with attempted breaking and entering with intent to commit felony, while pretending to be an ADT employee. [More Info](#)

Please Share Your Newsletters and Tips with Us

We would like to see how you communicate with your alarm users. Please add FARA to your mailing list if you send out Newsletters or mailings with false alarm reduction information. Do you have a brochure that describes your ordinance or program? We would like to see it. Staff will review what we receive and share tips and information with your fellow members in later issues of this newsletter.

Please send your newsletters, tips and brochures to:
False Alarm Reduction Association
10024 Vanderbilt Circle, Unit 4
Rockville, MD 20850
bradshipp@4yoursolution.com

FARA Mission Statement

It is the mission of the False Alarm Reduction Association (FARA) to provide a forum for local government alarm ordinance professionals to exchange information on successful false alarm reduction programs, to serve as a clearinghouse for agencies seeking to reduce false alarms, and to foster an environment of cooperation among public safety, the alarm industry and the alarm users.

Contact Us

False Alarm Reduction Association
10024 Vanderbilt Circle, Unit 4
Rockville, MD 20850
Email: info@faraonline.org
<http://www.faraonline.org>

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