

# THE CRIME WATCHER



The Fishers Crime Watch Program began in 1994 and easily reaches 3,000 homes in Fishers. I encourage you to become active in your neighborhood and support the Crime Watch Program. When neighbors look out for each other, everyone benefits.

Chief George G. Kehl

## Don't lose your identity to a thief!

In this month's issue of The Crime Watcher, don't miss the steps you should take to protect your identity from being stolen. This is a crime that knows no boundaries—it happens to young, old, rich, poor, male, female alike and yet, there are easy steps you can take to safeguard your information. The key, as with any crime, is to know when to seek help and call the police. If you believe someone is using your information, credit cards, checks etc. without your permission, contact the Fishers Police immediately. *As with all of our topics in The Crime Watcher, please don't hesitate to call Sgt. Hepp of the Fishers Police Department or Lori Spillane, the Fishers Community Prosecutor if you have questions or would like more information about this important issue.*

## CRIME PREVENTION: INTERNET SAFETY FOR CHILDREN

On June 4, 2007 after several months of organizing, Hamilton County Law Enforcement Agencies, consisting of Carmel, Fishers and Noblesville Police Departments along with active support of the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office have taken a unified proactive stance against those who would use a computer to either sell, possess or distribute child pornography and those who use the many internet chat rooms with the intent of luring our children into illicit sex acts.

This task force is called Hamilton County Metro Internet Crimes Against Children (HCMICAC). The objective of this task force is "to be proactive in its investigative efforts to identify and apprehend those individuals who utilize computers, digital

media and other electronic devices to prey upon children for the purpose of sexual gratification and / or profit.

Do you know who is talking to your children on the Internet? Do you know what websites your children visit? Knowing the places and people your children "visit" online is just as important as knowing their friends and the places they go in the real world. Unless you know what your child is doing in cyberspace, he or she could be in danger. Every minute of the day, children are solicited and victimized online. Predators are relentless in their pursuit of children. To combat Internet crimes against children, we must work together because the responsibility to protect children be-

longs to all of us. This new task force's goal is to reduce online victimization, increase the level of reporting of criminal activity, and provide resources for families to help them guard against Internet dangers.

Become involved. The most important and effective way to protect children online is parental involvement and supervision. Your children need both to travel safely through cyberspace.

On page two of this newsletter, you will find practical tips to protect your child when using the computer. For further information, contact Sgt. Gerry Hepp or Fishers Community Prosecutor Lori Spillane at 595-3300.



4 Municipal Drive  
Fishers, Indiana 46038



For more information on the Fishers Police Department Crime Watch Program— Please call or email Sergeant Gerry Hepp at 317-595-3300 or [heppg@fishers.in.us](mailto:heppg@fishers.in.us)



Lori A. Spillane  
Fishers Community  
Prosecutor  
317-595-3300 or  
[spillanel@fishers.in.us](mailto:spillanel@fishers.in.us)



Fishers Police Department

4 Municipal Drive  
Fishers, Indiana 46038  
317-595-3300  
FAX 317-595-3344

**Fishers Town Council**

Scott A. Faultless, President  
Daniel E. Henke, Vice  
President

Stuart F. Easley  
Eileen N. Pritchard  
Charles P. White  
David C. George  
Arthur J. Levine

**Clerk-Treasurer**

Linda Gaye Cordell

**Town Manager**

Gary A. Huff



FISHERS POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

Phone: 317-595-3300  
Emergency: 911  
Non-Emergency: 317-773-1282

WWW.FISHERS.IN.US

★ About 25 percent of the youth who encountered a sexual approach or solicitation told a parent. Almost 40 percent of those reporting an unwanted exposure to sexual material told a parent.

★ In households with home Internet access, one-third of parents said they had filtering or blocking software on their computers.

★ One in 5 youth received a sexual approach or solicitation over the Internet in the past year. Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Victims of Crime (2007).

## Prevent Identity Theft

Steps you can take to help prevent someone from stealing your identity.

**SHRED INSTEAD** When disposing of important papers, credit card receipts and pre-approved credit applications, thoroughly shred these documents. Request that your financial institutions, doctors' offices, etc shred any waste documents that may contain your personal information. Cancel and shred all credit cards you don't use or have not used in the past six months.

**BE ON THE LOOK OUT** When keying in personal information at an ATM or when using a phone card, beware of "shoulder surfers." These are individuals who look over your shoulder in an attempt to steal your Personal Identification Number. When ordering a new credit card or renewing an old one, pay careful attention to ensure that you receive these cards within an appropriate time frame. This is usually 30 days in advance of your current expiration date for credit card renewals and usually within 45-60 days of requests for new cards. Monitor your monthly bank and credit card statements. Contact the bank or credit card company if you don't recognize a transaction.

**SAFEGUARD YOUR MAIL** When ordering or recording blank checks from your financial institution, have them delivered to your bank instead of your home mailbox where there is more potential for theft. When mailing endorsed checks, avoid putting them in your home mailbox where the likelihood of theft is higher; a thief using an acid wash technique could easily change the payee name on your check.

## PROTECTING CHILDREN ON THE INTERNET

### Tips for Parents on Protecting Your Children Online

By educating yourself and your children, you can help make the Internet a safe and valuable tool for your family. The most important thing you can do is to pay close attention to your children and encourage them to confide in you. They should know that you will be calm and protective if they tell you about something that has frightened or disturbed them.

• **Teach your kids not to give out personal information** such as their last name, your last name, their home address, or phone number, especially in a chat room,

over a bulletin board, or to an online pen pal without your permission.

• **Make sure your kids know not to agree** to a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet online.

• **Instruct your kids never to respond to e-mail or chat messages that make them feel uncomfortable** or from someone they don't know. Stress that they should show such messages to you.

• **Surf the Internet with your kids.** If it is not possible for you to actually surf with your kids, at least talk to them about the Web sites they are visiting.

• **Place the computer in a public room** in your home so that even when you are not surfing with your kids, you can monitor their use. Do not allow computers in bedrooms or the use of webcams.

• **Establish ground rules for your kids' Internet usage**, including the hours they may surf and the kinds of Web sites they may visit. Post the rules near the computer.

• **Learn how to use parental controls and archiving features.** You should be able to check your child's email account and review the sites your child has visited on the Internet.