

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

Did you know.....

In 2006, almost 500 million people worldwide were 65 and older. By 2030, that total is projected to increase to 1 billion—1 in every 8 of the earth's inhabitants. Significantly, the most rapid increases in the 65-and-older population are occurring in developing countries, which will see a jump of 140 percent by 2030. Since the beginning of recorded human history, young children have outnumbered older people. Very soon this will change. For the first time in history, people age 65 and over will outnumber children under age 5. This trend is emerging around the globe. Today almost 500 million people are age 65 and over, accounting for 8 percent of the world's population. (March 2007 U.S. State Dept.).

FISHERS POLICE LAUNCH NEW SENIOR PROGRAM

Fishers Safety Link Program Reaches out to Seniors

The Fishers Police Department hosted a seminar on August 21st to announce a new program called Safety Link – “The Morning Call Network”. The program is based on a successful program started in 1991 at the Carmel Police Department. The “Safety Link” program will build upon the foundation of the Carmel program and combine many of the subsequent successes – checking on the well-being of those living alone, enabling seniors to feel more secure and pro-

vide programs to educate the senior community about crimes they are most likely to experience.

“The Morning Call Network” program will be staffed entirely by senior citizen volunteers. Volunteers will be screened and trained by the Fishers Police Department. Selected volunteers will telephone individuals at their homes during the week. Police officers, relatives or neighbors will check on participants who are unable to be reached by telephone. Generally, volunteers will work for a couple hours, one day each week calling par-

ticipants enrolled in the program.

We are actively recruiting volunteers to get the program up and running. Applications are also available for anyone interested in signing up for the service. Please stop by the Fishers Police Department or call Sgt. Gerry Hepp at 595-3300 for more information.

Look for more programs designed for our senior community as the Safety Link expands to include a Senior Academy and other seminars focusing on law enforcement and crime prevention issues important to seniors!



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

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Fishers Police Department

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Fishers Town Council

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

Keep Your Children Safe in the Neighborhood!

Reminders for all Crime Watch families!

Here are a few steps you can take to help keep your family and your neighborhood safe.

- **Know where your children are.** Have your children tell you or ask permission before leaving the house and give them a time to check in or be home. When possible, have them leave a phone number of where they will be.
- **Help children learn important phone numbers.** Have your children practice reciting their home phone number and address, and your work and cell phone numbers. If they have trouble memorizing these, write them down on a card and have them carry it at all times. Tell your children where you will be and the best way to reach you.
- **Set limits on where your children can go in your neighborhood.** Do you want them crossing busy roads? Playing in empty lots? Are there certain homes in your neighborhood that you don't want your children to go to?
- **Get to know your children's friends.** Meet their parents before letting your children to go to their home and keep a list of their phone numbers. If you can't meet their parents, call and talk to them. Ask what your children might do at their house and if they will be supervised.
- **Choose a safe house in your neighborhood.** Pick a neighbor's house where your children can go if they need help. Point out other places they can go for help, like stores, libraries, and police stations.
- **Teach children to settle arguments with words, not fists.** Role-play talking out problems, walking away from fist fights, and what to do when confronted with bullies. Remind them that taunting and teasing can hurt friends and make enemies.
- **Work together with your neighbors.** Watch out for suspicious and unusual behavior in your neighborhood. Get to know your neighbors and their children so you can look out for one another.

PREVENTING CYBERBULLYING

Delete any form of cyberbullying as it crosses the screen of your computer. Don't write it. Don't forward it. This is the newest advice from McGruff the Crime Dog and the National Crime Prevention Council. If a pre-teen or teen is harassed, demeaned, or abused online, that's cyberbullying. So is spreading malicious rumors or gossip.

Teens aged 13 to 17 spend a lot of time online. They use the Internet to talk to friends, gather information for reports, create their own web pages, look up sports scores, and check out movie times. They have access to the Internet at home, at school, and at friends' houses. Unlike children and tweens, teens are largely unsupervised by their parents while online.

Recently the National Crime Prevention Council commissioned a national online survey of middle and high school students ages 13 to 17 on cyberbullying. This study, by Harris Interactive®, set out to determine how teens define cyberbullying, explore their experiences with cyberbullying, understand teens' emotional and behavioral reactions to cyberbullying, and probe what teens think would be

the most effective ways to prevent cyberbullying. The survey found that

- About four in ten teens experienced cyberbullying at least one time in the last year.
- Girls report having been cyberbullied more than boys—a rate of 51 percent to 37 percent.
- Only one in ten teens who experienced cyberbullying had talked to their parents about it.
- Teens see the most effective strategy to stop cyberbullying as a combination of using online blocking technology and taking personal responsibility, simply not passing cyberbullying messages to others and telling their friends and the cyberbully to stop.
- Nearly six in ten teens said cyberbullies don't see their actions as a "big deal."

Teens believe that cyberbullying prevention needs to occur at three levels—individual, online, and parents. Teens believe the most effective way to prevent cyberbul-

lying is to be able to block people who cyberbully from communicating with them, refusing to pass along cyberbullying messages, and telling their friends to stop cyberbullying.

Results of the survey helped shape the new ad campaign from NCPC. Radio advertising, viral video, and web banners reach kids where they consume their media most—online and on the radio. New response pieces will accompany the messages from McGruff and NCPC. These pieces will be available at www.ncpc.org/teens/cyberbullying.php and include downloadable tips for kids and parents on dealing with cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a new aspect of bullying, a major social problem that, left unchecked, can have huge implications for young people, leaving many of them with emotional scars that can remain into later life. By tackling cyberbullying, the latest incarnation of this terrible problem, we can help make sure that our children grow up in a healthy, positive environment that will enable their best qualities—especially their self-esteem—to thrive. 2007 National Crime Prevention Council.