

April 2010

## PROTECTING CHILDREN ONLINE

With the ever-increasing development of computer technology and the increasing number of people who are computer literate, it is much more likely that our children may be victimized or exploited in a computer environment. The "Information Super Highway" which is made up of internet providers or "IP", such as Prodigy, America Online, CompuServe. All allow millions of people around the world to communicate anonymously in a virtually uncontrolled electronic world.

Advise your children to observe the following safety rules whenever they are on-line. Remind them that no matter how safe or friendly a IP seems (and this includes the major on-line services), there is always a potential for danger.

\* Never give out any personal information about themselves--particularly real names, addresses, phone number, financial information, etc. to anyone that they meet on computer bulletin boards.

\* Report all electronic harassment and/or abuse to their parents. As parents, you should notify the IP of the problem. If the IP does not give you satisfaction in stopping the abuse, notify the police.

\* Never set up face-to-face meetings with anyone they have met on the computer. If anyone you meet on-line wants to meet you--tell your parents.

\* Safeguard all credit card and telephone card numbers. Parents should pay for IP service by money order whenever possible.

**SERVICE-PRIDE-INTEGRITY**



**GARDEN CITY POLICE**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**CITY DEPARTMENT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMERGENCY- 911**

**POLICE 793-1700**

**DETECTIVE BUREAU 793-1710**

**CITY HALL 793-1600**

**21ST DIST. COURT 793-1680**

**BUILDING DEPT. 793-1650**

**CITY CLERK 793-1620**

**LIBRARY 793-1830**

**MAPLEWOOD CTR. 793-1850**

**PARKS & REC. 793-1880**

## Warning Signs of Possible Computer Crime Problems / Internet Safety

\* Computer and modem running late at night unattended.

\* Computer files ending in GIF, JPG, BMP, TIF, PCX, DL, GL, FLI. These are picture or graphic image files and parents should know what they illustrate. Image files may be pictures of a sexual nature and can be of very high quality, moving, and even include sound.

### What You Can Do to Protect Your Children

\* Be involved with your kids in using the computer. This is a great opportunity to spend time with your child.

\* Keep the computer in a common area of your home. Virtually every case where children were involved in computer crimes or were victims of abuse via computer, computers were in the children's room.

### Update security patches for your operating system and web browser.

You've probably read about security "holes" that turn up periodically. Once they are discovered, you can download fixes. For Windows users, an easy way to update your system is click on the Windows Update option under the Start menu or by pointing your web browser to this link: <http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>

### Install a firewall on your computer.

A firewall is a software program that blocks unauthorized access to your computer. This is particularly important if you have a broadband connection, such as DSL or a cable modem. Windows XP has a built-in firewall, so make sure it's activated if you use that operating system. If not, we recommend

ZoneAlarm. You can download it for free for personal use from Zone Labs.

### Log offline when you are done for the day.

You are most vulnerable when connected to the Net. If there isn't a good reason to remain online, disconnect from the network. Follow these tips and you will enhance your personal security and the health of your PC.

If you have any suggestions for a Crime Prevention topic, please contact me or the Detective Bureau Secretary Nancy Miner. Your topic can be discussed in one of the newsletters or discussed at one of our Neighborhood Watch Meetings.

Thank you,  
D/Sgt. Brian Aure'

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK / CITY CRIME STATS

### March Crime Statistics—Offenses that were attempted or completed

Breaking & Entering 12  
Larceny 28  
Sexual Offense 3  
Stolen Vehicles 90  
Assaults 37  
Murder 0

Robbery 1  
Disorderly / Vagrancy 6  
Fraud 9  
Drug Violations 7  
Property Damage 17

The numbers listed are statistic for the entire city during the month listed