

June 2007

Children and the Computer*

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, Compu-Serve and the Internet, 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 IP. 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 Barb Wlosinski. Your topic can be discussed in one of the newsletters or discussed at one of our Neighborhood Watch Meeting.

Thank you,
D/Sgt. Brian Aure'

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH BLOCK / CITY CRIME STATS

May Crime Statistics—Offenses that were attempted or completed

Arson 2
Breaking & Entering 10
Larceny 65
Sexual Offense 2
Stolen Vehicles 20
Assaults 58
Murder 0

Robbery 4
Disorderly / Vagrancy 2
Fraud 11
Drug Violations 9
Property Damage 22
Weapon Offenses 10
Drunk Driving 12

ARRESTS

99 Adults were arrested this month.

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