

APRIL 2019



Raleigh Police Department Community Newsletter

This newsletter is produced by the Public Affairs Unit of the Raleigh Police Department. It provides Raleigh citizens with crime prevention tips, seasonal information, and upcoming RPD community activities.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed each April, was first designated in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan as part of the ongoing effort to increase public awareness of the need to ensure all children's safety and welfare. Locally, we want to mark Child Abuse Prevention Month by highlighting that we all play a role in strengthening families and keeping kids safe. One of the most effective ways to prevent child abuse is for individuals and communities to work together to support kids and families.

This edition of RPD Community Newsletter features tips to do your part in preventing child abuse as well as knowing the signs to look for. Please feel free to share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP IN CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION

This month, consider how you might make a difference in the life of at least one family in our community. Then act on an idea and play your role in preventing child abuse throughout the year.

The following is a short list of some simple things that you could do to help:



- A family member can offer to babysit so parents can get a break.
- A neighbor can organize an activity so families can get to know each other.
- Retail and other service industry establishments can post fliers with information on helpful resources for families as well as community events.
- Shoppers can smile at a parent who is juggling groceries and a toddler. A look of support instead of judgment can make a big difference.
- Secular and spiritual community organizations can host youth activities. This gives parents a needed break and offers kids and outlet for their energy. Click [here](#) for a link to some of RPD's Youth programs.
- Employers can promote a culture where it is okay for employees to reach out and ask for help. When a parent isn't able to care for a child due to lack of resources, services are often put into place to assist the family in meeting a child's needs.

Tipsters can call Raleigh CrimeStoppers at (919) 834-HELP or visit raleighcrimestoppers.org for text and email reporting options. CrimeStoppers pays cash rewards for anonymous tips that help solve cases.



HOW TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

We all desire to live in a community where child abuse is prevented and, when it occurs, is effectively addressed.

All children and adolescents have a legal right to be free from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. In North Carolina, every adult has a legal responsibility to report suspected child abuse to social services or law enforcement, regardless of the adult's relationship with the child.

There is no legal liability for making a report in good faith, and your identity must be kept confidential by social services and law enforcement.

WHAT TO NOTICE: Most sexually abused children have no physical signs. But everyone should be aware of children with the following characteristics, especially in combination or over long periods of time:

- **Frequent injuries or illnesses**, especially if they go untreated.
- **Excessive anxiety, fearfulness, watchfulness, passivity, or withdrawal.** The child may also seem emotionally detached from a parent or other caregiver, or may have a strong, unexplained aversion to a particular adult.
- **Sudden changes in behavior**, such as a decline in schoolwork, increase in aggression, depressed mood, difficulty sleeping, or change in appetite.
- **Inappropriate language or behavior** that suggests exposure to pornography, adult sexual behavior, or adult sexual conversation.
- **Questions or comments that the child may use to see whether you can be trusted.** For example, these may include a question about whether you are willing to keep a secret. Children may also tell stories about abuse that happened to someone else, or that the child claims to have seen in a movie, on television, or in a dream.



PINWHEELS IN THE PARK



On April 2, a proclamation was presented at the Raleigh City Council Meeting to declare Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The Raleigh Police Department, the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department, and Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina were all present for the event. Pinwheels were planted in Raleigh Parks throughout the city to show support for child abuse prevention.

UPCOMING RPD CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6, 7:30 a.m.

Team Raleigh Send Off Annual LE Memorial Bike Ride
Raleigh Police Memorial
222 W. Hargett Street

May 15

National Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 20, 10 a.m.

Wake County Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony
Meymandi Concert Hall
Duke Energy for the Performing Arts