



Charles T. Craft, Chief of Police
500 West Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084
(248) 524-3443

Lieutenant Gerry Scherlinck, Public Information Officer
(248) 524-3447 Fax (248) 524-9023

NEWS RELEASE

November 5, 2004

Troy Police Expand E-Mail Communication Network to Homeowner's Associations

Approximately 10 years ago, the Troy Police Department developed and implemented a Business Fax Program. The program was designed to open the channels of communication between the department and members of the business and retail community. When crime trends developed that affected that portion of the community, the department would provide alerts using this system. Information such as what sorts of crimes were being committed, which areas of town were affected, suspect and vehicle descriptions, as well as times of day were shared. In addition, crime prevention tips were provided to the members of the program. The department recently converted this program to an E-mail system. Now we are seeking to expand the program to include members of our residential community. Troy is fortunate to have an active and organized group of homeowners' associations. We are seeking to identify representatives from those associations to form a Residential E-mail Communication Network. Ideally, each association member responsible for communicating with members, or editing and distributing each association's newsletter will become our contact person.

The intent is to implement a sort of electronic "Neighborhood Watch Program." The system will allow for two-way communication between the community and police department. Crime trends affecting specific neighborhoods will be quickly distributed. Not only will the new network allow us to disseminate crime trend information to specific areas, it will also allow us to share general information related to public safety, crime prevention, security concerns, street closings, community events, and police programs with the entire community. Although our intent is to organize and develop the residential network by targeting homeowner's associations as the primary contacts and distribution points, individual residents may also be included in this network upon request.

Participating businesses, homeowner's associations, and residents will be free to share information with others. E-mail addresses will be kept confidential and will not be given to sources outside the Police Department.

Any business that is not currently a member of the Business E-mail Network is invited to contact the Police Department's Community Services Section at 248-524-3452 and have their contact person's name, telephone number, and E-mail address added to the database.

Homeowner's association representatives, as well as interested residents who wish to participate in this new effort should also contact the Community Services Section using the same telephone number.

The following E-mail address can also be used: troydcrimealert@ci.troy.mi.us.