

FEBRUARY 2021



## 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.

In this edition of the RPD Community Newsletter, we share information about Safer Internet Day, National Parent Leadership Month as well as a timely reminder about keeping your vehicle from being stolen in these cold winter months. We hope you will share this information with your friends, family, and neighbors.

### HOW TO STAY SAFE ON THE INTERNET

Every February, Safer Internet Day is an opportunity for millions of people around the world to raise awareness of children and young people's online safety and wellbeing.

In this season of social distancing, many people are on the internet more than ever, whether it is for shopping, working or school. The following are a few safety tips to help keep the internet a safe place for you, your family and friends to live, work and play:



- **Don't share personal details with strangers**, like passwords, addresses, full names and phone numbers.
- **Only access and share appropriate content** - parents should know all passwords and monitor which apps and websites kids are using.
- **Don't text and drive** - not only is it illegal, it's dangerous. Texts or social posts can wait.
- **Embrace Smartphone etiquette** - silence phones in meetings or school and look people in the eye during a conversation to be responsive to the person you are with.
- **Limit screen time** - no technology can replace the importance of face-to-face interactions. Set a time limit and stick to it.

- **Take breaks from social media** - studies show that spending too much time scrolling can increase feelings of stress, anxiety and depression. To take a break, you should turn off notifications, set time limits, and prioritize your own self-care with other activities you enjoy.

Visit <https://www.saferinternetday.org/> for more information.

Please call 911 if you have experienced a crime or if you want to report any suspicious activity.

## FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PARENT LEADERSHIP MONTH



February is National Parent Leadership Month, dedicated to recognizing the important role of parents in raising healthy families in their homes and communities.

Parent leaders represent the “parent voice” and are strong advocates for all families in their community. They provide input into family support program and community deci-

sions and serve as role models and resources for other parents; thereby enhancing factors proven to prevent abuse and neglect.

Empowering parents to take leadership roles in their communities not only strengthens the individual parent and his or her family, it also improves outcomes for all children. Research shows that health, education, and family support organizations achieve more positive results and use resources more effectively when they partner with parents.

A [video](#) on this subject has been posted on our social media channels. Click here to listen to a few of our RPD families discuss what they believe the meaning of parenting is them.

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

RPD’s Sgt. Klos-Weller spoke to Fox 50 News about the importance of the department’s participation in the the Law Enforcement Torch Run® for Special Olympics, which is the largest year-round public awareness and grass-roots fundraising campaign for Special Olympics.

For more information on how you can get involved, go to [sonc.net](http://sonc.net).



## PROTECTING YOUR VEHICLE FROM THEFT AND TAMPERING

You can save yourself and your family a lot of frustration, stress, and interruption to your daily life by taking some simple precautions to reduce the risk of you or your vehicle becoming a target by following these steps:

### Lock Your Vehicle

An unlocked vehicle with a key in the ignition is an open invitation to thieves, regardless of any anti-theft device you may use. The common-sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost-effective way to thwart would-be thieves. You should always secure your vehicle, even if you’re parking for “just a minute.” Do this by:

- Closing all of your windows.
- Not leaving your keys in the ignition.

- Using remote button starts when possible.
- Never leaving your engine running and vehicle unlocked while you run into your home, a convenience store, or anywhere else.

### Hide Your Valuables

One of the most common types of theft is that of valuables from your vehicle. Theft from autos is strictly a crime of opportunity. Thieves generally won’t waste their time breaking into cars without valuables in plain sight, however, if they find a vehicle unlocked, they may look around and sometimes even come across a firearm. Last year, in Raleigh there were more than 2500 larceny from motor vehicles incidents. Of those, over 200 firearms were stolen from motor vehicles.

*Remember, it only takes a few seconds for someone to get into your vehicle. Check out our [video here](#).*

