

JUNE 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.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month and was created in an effort to raise awareness surrounding the issue of needless and senseless gun violence in our communities. The RPD is taking steps to reduce the number of firearm related crime through training and education, partnering and engaging with the community, and utilizing intelligence-led policing. Click [here](#) to find a list of events that will be taking place throughout the month.

This edition of the RPD Community Newsletter features information on gun violence awareness as well as information on what is happening in your community. Please feel free to share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

FIREARM SAFETY--RULES OF SAFE GUN HANDLING

These basic rules apply to EVERYONE and they apply ALWAYS! No matter how experienced a shooter and no matter what the circumstances.

- *Treat ALL firearms as if they are loaded.*
- *DO NOT point at or cover anything with the muzzle until ready to shoot.*
- *Keep your trigger finger off the trigger and outside the trigger guard until ready to shoot.*
- *Be certain of your target and your line of fire.*
- *Firearms should be unloaded when not in use.*
- *Don't rely on your gun's safety. The safety on the gun is a mechanical device which, like any such device, can become inoperable at the worst possible times.*
- *Safe and secure storage of your firearm is one of your most important responsibilities. You must always secure your firearm and ammunition so that they are not accessible to children or other unauthorized persons.*



There are a variety of locks and safe storage containers available in the marketplace which may be appropriate for your particular needs. By purchasing a firearm you have taken on the responsibility of safely securing the firearm at all times and preventing its unauthorized use. It is your personal responsibility to select and use whatever devices or practices that will enable you to safely secure your firearm AT ALL TIMES.

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

KEEPING KIDS AND TEENS SAFE AROUND GUNS

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, roughly a third of U.S. homes with children have guns. In fact, nearly two million children live with unlocked, loaded guns. Parents may not realize what a serious injury risk a gun in the home is, especially for children.

Children and teens are naturally curious about firearms and, as a result, may be tempted to “play” with a firearm they find. Make sure young people that live in or visit your home are aware of and understand these safety guidelines:

- *Make sure they know guns that are seen on television or a video game are different from a gun in real life.*
 - *Don't go snooping, or allow other kids to go snooping, for guns in the house.*
 - *If you find a gun in the house, or anywhere else, STOP! Do not touch it or allow anyone else to. Leave the area and be sure to immediately tell an adult.*
- *Even if a gun looks like a toy, don't touch it. Some real guns look like toy guns, so don't take a chance. Leave the area and immediately tell an adult.*



For more information go to [healthychildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org).

GROWING THE FUZZ FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS NORTH CAROLINA

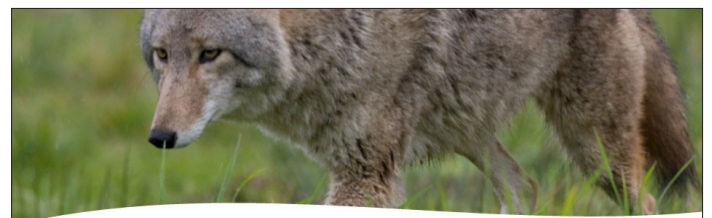
Keep an eye out for Raleigh Police officers sporting facial hair in June!

This new fundraiser, Growing the Fuzz for Special Olympics North Carolina, allows officers to grow and wear beards and goatees while on duty. Officers will compete on their personal fundraising pages to see who will be allowed to continue with their facial hair until July 15, 2021.



Check out the [website](#) to see the individual fundraising leaders or to make a donation. All proceeds to benefit over 40,000 Special Olympic athletes across North Carolina.

ONLINE MEETING TO ADDRESS COYOTE CONCERNS AND WILDLIFE SAFETY TIPS



Coyote Concerns
& Other Wildlife
Safety Tips
Community Conversation



June 9 | 2 p.m.
Zoom meeting featuring
Greg Batts, Wildlife Biologist
NC Wildlife Commission

The Raleigh Police Department's Animal Control Unit receives numerous calls each year regarding coyotes and other wildlife.

You're invited to join us on June 9 at 2 p.m. for a Zoom meeting to discuss these concerns, the do's and don'ts when encountering wildlife, and animal laws. Click here for the meeting [link](#).