

OCTOBER 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.

This month's RPD Community Newsletter features tips to keep children safe while trick or treating as well as information on domestic violence awareness and bullying prevention. Please feel free to share this information with family, friends, and neighbors.

### BE SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN

Halloween has been celebrated on October 31st in the United States since the early 1800's and is traditionally a family-oriented holiday when children get to dress up and enjoy candy and other treats. In order to assist the Raleigh community in enjoying this fun-filled holiday as safely as possible, the Raleigh Police Department has compiled the following Halloween safety tips for children and their parents.

- Set a specific time limit to be out trick-or-treating.
  - Don't leave your home unattended on Halloween night.
  - Keep pets inside your home, or other safe places.
  - Children should never enter into strangers' homes.
  - Never invite children into your home.
  - Don't take shortcuts through backyards or alleys.
  - A responsible adult should escort children while trick-or-treating.
  - Adults should carry flashlights.
  - Instruct children not to stray from their group.
  - Ensure that costumes and/or candy containers are reflective.
  - Children should walk during their trick-or-treat activities.
  - Parents should know what route their children will be taking.
  - All costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material.
  - Children should wear proper fitting, comfortable costumes and shoes.
  - Props such as toy guns or swords should be made of pliable material.
  - Realistic replica firearms should never be used.
  - Masks should not be worn if they impair vision.
  - Wigs should be fireproof and should not restrict vision.
- 
- Children should use sidewalks, not the street, for walking and look in all directions before crossing the street.
  - Motorists should drive slowly, yield to young pedestrians, and watch out for Trick-or-Treaters darting into the street.
  - Parents should examine treats before children eat them.

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

## RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) is celebrated each October to raise awareness to the issue of domestic violence. DVAM was launched nationwide in October 1987 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Domestic violence can come in numerous forms such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and financial isolation. Domestic violence can affect anyone. One out of 3 women will be a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault in her lifetime. Every day domestic violence hotlines receive over 21,000 calls, which breaks down to approximately 15 calls per minute. In Raleigh alone, there have over 8,000 domestic violence cases in the past year. That breaks down to 20 to 30 cases a day, seven days a week – the highest caseload of any investigative unit within the Raleigh Police Department. And while we have a dedicated team of officers, detectives and crisis counselors working these cases round the clock, we know that it is not enough to stem the tide of domestic violence in our community.



We encourage anyone from the community that If you suspect someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please call 911. If you see something, say something. For more information about some of the signs you can look for and how you can help if you believe someone is a victim of domestic violence, go to the RPD's social media channels. A link to our video can be found [here](#).

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

Every day thousands of young people experience bullying from their peers while at school, after school in their neighborhoods, and through social media and texts. During the month of October, schools and organizations across the country work together to stop bullying and cyberbullying by increasing awareness of the prevalence and impact of all forms of bullying on all children of all ages.

The Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Education released the first definition of bullying in 2014. The core elements of bullying are unwanted aggressive behavior, observed or perceived power imbalance, and a repetition of behaviors.

Three broad categories of bullying include physical, verbal, and social. Bullying can happen anywhere at any time. Bystanders who intervene on behalf of those being bullied have the greatest impact on reducing bullying behavior.

Seventy percent of all U.S. students in schools have indicated that they observed bullying. Since teachers, administrators, and parents are not always with young people the best defense is to raise awareness and give tips on what to do.

The RPD has produced two videos on this subject including preventing gun violence and how to talk to your kids. You can find the [playlist](#) of these videos on YouTube.

