



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO HOLD COMMUNITY WATCH TRAINING CLASSES

[Lancaster, Ohio, April 23, 2010] The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office is planning to start selection of the fourth class of recruits for the Mobile Community Watch program in May, with a 40-hour mandatory training beginning in early June. Any Fairfield County or Village of Canal Winchester resident interested in applying for the program is encouraged to contact Pam Renko or Sgt. Jared Collins at 740-653-5223. You may also stop by any Sheriff's Office facility to pick up an application. Internet users may visit the Sheriff's Office Web site at www.sheriff.fairfield.oh.us to download a copy of the application. Applications will be accepted for the 2010 class until at least May 15.

If you have already completed and submitted the application, we will be in contact with you in early May with further instructions. Sheriff Phalen thanks all applicants for their patience with the application process.

The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office is pleased to announce that the Mobile Community Watch program is entering its fourth year and is surpassing all expectations. Sheriff Dave Phalen created the volunteer crime watch patrol after reading about similar programs in Arizona and Florida. While conducting research on programs of this type he discovered that in some areas patrolled by volunteers there had been a fifty percent reduction in crime.

Community Watch members are patrolling the streets of Fairfield County in four retired cruisers and one car donated by Layman Pontiac of Lancaster. Each car is specially marked "Community Watch" and is outfitted with amber warning lights. Community Watch members respond to some non emergency calls for service, participate in special events and assist Deputies in incidents in their patrol area. For all emergency situations the members are instructed to safely observe and report.

Sheriff Phalen reports that volunteers logged several thousand hours of patrol time last year alone. Volunteers are staffing an average of two cars on the street at least five evenings per week and have already made a positive impact on the communities they are patrolling.