

Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy

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David S. Vice, Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE

September 08, 2011

The Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy, located at 3630 Lee Hill Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408, is announcing the topics for the LEAP Campaign Child Safety Forums. There will be five community events, three in the Fall of this year, and two in the Spring, culminating with a Kid's Fun Day. The Child Safety Forums are for parents of school aged children, and will give the parents the opportunity to discuss issues affecting child safety in the community with people who can give them real answers. There is no charge to attend, and no pre-registration is required. **Please contact Candi at 371-2875, or by email at rrcjaap@rrcja.org to RSVP, or for more information.**

October 20, 2011 – Assault of School-aged Children: Prevent, Recognize, Report

An assault, in any form, on a minor is a harrowing event. Statistics gathered by the Crimes Against Children Research Center indicate that more than half of youth experienced a physical assault, and one in twelve reported experiencing sexual victimization, over a period of one year. Parents of an assault victim ask themselves how they could have prevented the attack, how they could have realized something was bothering their child, and what happens after the authorities are notified. Join community service groups, law enforcement officers, and school resource officers as they discuss keeping children safe from assaults. Topics include: recognizing behavioral changes in your child that could indicate an assault has occurred, discussing your concerns with law enforcement, what to expect from law enforcement, and community resources available to the child and family. The forum will start at 6:30 PM and last approximately two hours. Light refreshments will be served.

November 3, 2011 – Gangs and Drugs in the Community

Gang activity in our communities can be scary for adults and children, and there is a strong relationship between drugs and gang activity. Representatives from both the Gang Taskforce

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and the Drug Taskforce, as well as state police, community policing representatives, and school resource officers will discuss methodologies and trends of gangs and drugs in the neighborhoods of our community. Topics to be discussed include: why gangs are popular, recognizing gang signs, trends of gang signs and initiations in Virginia, drug use among school age children, signs of drug use, and what to do if you suspect gang activity or drug activity in your neighborhood. The forum will begin at 6:30 PM and last approximately two hours. Light refreshments will be served.

November 17, 2011 – Public Forum: Child Safety in the Community

This session will offer representatives from the law enforcement community, public services, and schools an opportunity to discuss what each sees as child safety issues in the community and what can be done to keep our children safe. Time will be allotted for a period of questions and answers. This discussion will begin at 6:30 PM and last approximately two hours. Light refreshments will be served.

April 19, 2012 – Internet Safety: Safety in Social Media

Just about every child, and most parents, has a Facebook or mySpace account. Is it secure? How do you set up limitations for your kids? Do you know the pitfalls and concerns of social media and on-line chatting? Who do you report an Internet crime to? Join us from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM to learn more about these topics and more. Refreshments will be served.

May 3, 2012 – Internet Predators

According to the Crimes Against Children Research Center, one in five U.S. teenagers who regularly log on to the Internet have said that they have received an unwanted sexual solicitation, but only twenty-five percent who did receive an unwanted sexual solicitation told a parent. This same report indicates that seventy-seven percent of the targets for online predators were fourteen years old or older, and that twenty-two percent were users between the age of ten and thirteen. The Your Internet Safety Survey reported that one in thirty-three youth were asked by a predator to meet somewhere, were contacted by phone, or were sent money or gifts through the mail. Astoundingly, the Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that only one-third of households with Internet access use filtering or blocking software. This class will discuss the methodologies of the internet predator, help parents know what to look for, and what to do if they suspect their child has been approached by a predator. This forum will begin at 6:30 PM and end at 8:30 PM, and light refreshments will be served.

The LEAP Campaign wrap-up party will be held on May 12, 2012. The second annual Kid's Fun Day will be held at the Rappahannock Regional Criminal Justice Academy from 10 AM -2 PM. This free event will offer fun things to do for kids of ALL ages.

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