**Police launch online crime-alerting system**

By Stephanie Flemmons, Staff Writer
(Created: Wednesday, April 30, 2008)

STAR Community Newspapers

<http://www.scntx.com/articles/2008/04/30/breaking_news/75.txt>

The Plano Police Department partnered with [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com) to alert citizens when a crime situation occurs in their area.

The free service provides easy-to-read incident crime maps and automated alerts.

“CrimeReports.com will prove particularly valuable to those in the community who want to stay informed about what is going on in their neighborhoods and empower citizens to work with the police department to address neighborhood crime issues,” said Rick McDonald, police spokesperson. “This supports our mission and assists us in our partnership in the community so we maintain a safe environment and contribute to the quality of life.”

The CrimeReports service is free to the public and allows citizens to receive automatic daily, weekly or monthly e-mail alerts if and when crimes occur near their home, office or local school.

Citizens can also view reported crime activity for any location within Plano’s boundaries.

“This is a way for all of us to work together with the same goal,” McDonald said. “This will keep crime organizations informed as to what is going on and allow citizens to be as transparent as possible.” Crime incident data is updated nightly and includes incident type, date, location, distance from citizen’s address, case number and brief crime incident description.

“By participating in [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com), the Plano Police Department is demonstrating its commitment to service and safety by making crime information available to the citizens of Plano,” said Greg Whisenant, co-founder and CEO of Public Engines, which makes the [CrimeReports.com](http://CrimeReports.com) application. “The Plano Police Department is forward-looking, providing timely, location-specific information to the public when they need it.”

To sign up for the service visit [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com) or directly to the Plano Police Department’s Web site at www.plano.gov/departments/police.

Later in 2008, the CrimeReports program will introduce additional services to support community policing and neighborhood watch programs.

Upcoming features include SMS alerting, allowing the Plano PD to send alerts to specific neighborhoods if specifically requested by the department.

Neighborhood Watch tools, where residents of specific neighborhoods can contribute information. It will also include video integration, allowing law enforcement to attach digital video to specific crimes when it is available.

The CrimeReports service is an implementation of the Global Justice XML Data Model (GJXDM), the authorized data sharing protocol developed and supported by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Using GJXDM as the underlying technology gives the application much more versatility and flexibility.

If adjacent law enforcement agencies choose to integrate with the service, side by side data will be readily available for both alerting and analytics.

The service was launched in beta with the Metropolitan Police of Washington, DC in March 2007 and was made available to any accredited law enforcement agency in the U.S. in August 2007.

Contact Stephanie Flemmons at sflemmons@acnpapers.com