



Vacaville Police Department

660 Merchant Street

Vacaville, California 95688

Communications Center: 707.449.5200

Internet: <http://www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police/pressrelease.php>

Press Release

Today's Date: 03/25/2009
Date Occurred: April 1, 2009
Submitted By: Sergeant Charlie Spruill
Phone: 707-469-6607 Cell: 689-3325
Case Number n/a
Type of Child Abuse Prevention Month
Crime/Incident: Ribbon Tying Ceremony
Location: 650 Merchant Street
Suspect: n/a

Narrative:

Child Abuse Prevention Month will be celebrated nationwide during the month of April. The Blue Ribbon Campaign is a celebrated part of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Blue Ribbon Campaign was started in 1989 by Bonnie Finney of Virginia. Bonnie Finney lost her three year old grandson from injuries inflicted by child abuse. In Bonnie's Words:

"The blue ribbon serves as a constant reminder... to fight for the protection of our children. We must protect our most precious gift... our children. Please wear a blue ribbon... put one on your car... give one to your friends... tell them what it means... you may change a child's life."

Last year, there were 789 reported cases of child abuse or neglect reported in Vacaville. To honor these children and increase awareness of this issue in our community, Vacaville Police Department staff will be tying blue ribbons on a tree in front of City Hall (650 Merchant Street). The ceremony will take place at noon on Wednesday, April 1, 2009. The public is invited. The tree will be decorated with 395 blue ribbons. Each ribbon will represent two children from Vacaville that were reported as victims of abuse in 2008.

In addition, SpankOut Day USA was initiated in 1998 to give widespread attention to the need to end corporal punishment of children and to promote non-violent ways of teaching children appropriate behavior. EPOCH-USA (End Physical Punishment of Children) sponsors SpankOut Day USA on April 30th of each year. All parents, guardians, and caregivers are encouraged to refrain from the corporal punishment of children, and seek alternative methods of discipline. Information on alternative methods of discipline can be obtained through programs available in community agencies and schools. Community members can call the Family Investigative Response Services Team (F.I.R.S.T.) at 469-6600 or the Family Resource Center at 469-6608 for further information on alternative methods of discipline.

Blue ribbons and other child abuse prevention materials are available at the F.I.R.S.T. Office and the Family Resource Center located at 312 Cernon Street, Suite D in Vacaville.

Criminal activity can be reported at www.cityofvacaville.com/departments/police, or you can call "Crime Stoppers" and leave an anonymous tip at 707-644-STOP(7867). Crime Stoppers may pay up to \$1,000 for information that leads to an arrest.