



**TECHNOLOGY—CRIME OPPORTUNITIES** CONTRIBUTED BY SGT J GROEHLER

New technology and electronic social interactions are drastically transforming the world we know today. Like never before in history, our entire world is connected. Just a few decades ago having a personal computer was a luxury; now almost every home in America has a computer. Today, children as young as a few years of age navigate a computer as naturally as exploring a playground.

The proliferation of computer technology has enhanced our lives in many ways, such as enabling improved productivity and efficiency at work, school, and at home. These days, anyone with access to a computer or cell phone has unparalleled recreational and educational opportunities. Unfortunately, the criminals have access to the new wave of technology as well. Computers, cell phones, and the Internet have expanded the arena for predators to prey on innocent victims.

Our children and young adults are especially vulnerable with the use of technology. They know how to use the new devices but do not know how to use them safely. For many children, online social networks offer a place to exercise their individuality free from the prying eyes of their parents or teachers. Even though our children know how to use the new wave of technology, they do not have the media or digital literacy we assume they do.

It is important that we share with the community, parents, young adults, children, and our educators the benefits, the risks, and the dangers associated with this new wave of technology. In March of 2009, our department began to hold community meetings and offered free classes in an effort to educate the public on the new emerging trends in technology. Currently the focus of the presentations is directed at the social networking sites such as *My Space* and *Facebook*. Due to the



State ST. Neighborhood Officer Chanda Dolsen provides training to a group.

expanding capabilities of cell phones and text messaging, there is a greater opportunity for misuse of technology such as cyber-bullying—which according to the National Crime Prevention Council occurs "when the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person." Sexting—which is the combination of texting with sexually explicit content along with transmission of nude or sexually graphic photos. There are also the more frequently discussed issues related to identity theft, on-line gaming, and the costly pitfalls associated with sites such as *Craig's List*. While the focus is on the use of technology by youth, adults can fall prey to the traps of technology that are abused by criminals. People we would not allow into our homes in person come creeping in through the wires and wireless Internet.

The officers involved in the program worked numerous hours preparing the curriculum and presentations for the classes. As the officers share their personal experiences, it is evident that this is a timely topic that needs to be discussed not only with police, but members of our families.

More information available at: <http://www.ncpc.org/>

## CRIME OVERVIEW

### Person Crimes: *Batteries*

Date	Time	Address	Details
10/3	2:00 am	500 Blk State St	The victim and suspect had been involved in a disturbance at The Pub earlier in the evening which moved outside at bar time.
10/9	2:30 am	300 Blk W Wilson	The suspect was charged with Domestic Strangulation, Battery, and False Imprisonment for a domestic involving his former girlfriend.
10/14	2:20 am	400 Blk N Frances	The victim was struck by the suspect (male black, 5'10", medium build, 22 to 26 years of age, dreadlocks) as he was walking with a friend. The victim had no idea why he was struck.
10/16	4:00 pm	1300 Blk Williamson	The suspect was charged with Battery and DC While Armed for attacking a customer with an ax handle at a business during an argument over a tattoo.
10/16	2:05 am	200 Blk State St	The victim was battered at the Orpheum as he was exiting the bar. The suspect was described as a male white, 5'11", 185, 22 to 26 years of age, last seen wearing a dark-colored sweater and jeans.
10/17	1:20 am	100 Blk State St	The victim was battered while attempting to break up a fight.
10/17	2:00 am	600 Blk N Carroll	The victim was checking on five Asian males who had been trespassing on the property. When the victim confronted the suspects, they began attacking him and fled the area.
10/18	1:30 am	400 Blk State St	The victim was attacked by the suspect (male black, 40 years of age, 6-foot tall) over a panhandling argument.
10/19	3:00 pm	30 Blk N Brooks	The suspect was charged with Domestic Battery and DC for an incident involving his girlfriend.
10/23	3:00 pm	300 Blk State St	The suspect was arrested for battery. The victim was later arrested for a previous incident.
10/24	12:55 am	1400 Blk Regent	The suspect was arrested for battering the victim and creating a disturbance.
10/25	4:41 am	400 Blk W Mifflin	The victim was walking on Mifflin when he was battered by the suspect (male white, 20, 6'2", medium build, dark coat and dark shoes).
10/27	1:05 am	500 Blk State St	The suspect was arrested for battering the victim. Suspect later reported he was too impaired to know what was going on.
10/28	2:00 am	600 Blk State St	The victim reported he was battered while at State Street Brats by an unidentified white male. The victim's jaw was broken during the incident.
10/31	3:20 am	500 Blk University	The suspect was arrested for battering the victim during a disagreement over a mutual acquaintance.
10/30	10:40 pm	300 Blk E Mifflin	The victim was found unconscious on the sidewalk with a head injury from a fall. No witnesses were located. Victim later passed away, investigation continuing.
10/31	11:55 pm	W. Dayton at Carroll	Suspect was arrested and charged with several charges including Battery to a PO during a disturbance the officer tried to intervene in.
10/31	11:00 pm	600 Blk W Main	The victim was critically battered while at the Main Depot by a male white wearing a flying monkey suit from the Wizard of Oz. Detective assigned.

## CRIME OVERVIEW CONTINUED

### Person Crimes: Robbery

Date	Time	Address	Details
10/1	4:30 am	400 Blk W Dayton	The suspect (male black, 40 to 50, 5'5", 200 pounds) asked the victim for money for a cab. After the victim gave some money the suspect shoved the victim up against a building, went through his pockets, and took his wallet.
10/6	1:25 am	1200 Blk Williamson	The victim, who was waiting for a cab and was approached from behind by the suspect (male white, 40, 5'9", medium build, blond hair) who struck him with a rock and took the victim's cash and fled.
10/14	10:40 pm	800 Blk E Gorham	The victim was walking to the bus stop when she was confronted from behind by two individuals. The suspects began to strike her in an effort to get her purse. The suspects were only described as possibly being Black males wearing black hooded sweatshirts and dark pants.
10/27	7:50 am	W Johnson At Frances	The victim was waiting for a bus when he was confronted by the suspect. The victim gave the suspect \$6 and a muffin. Suspect described as male black, 28 years of age, 5'11", 200 pounds, clean shaven, with very yellow eyes and shaved lines in his eyebrows.

### Property Crimes: Burglaries

Date	Location	Type	Entry	Targeted/Stolen
9/4	400 Blk W Gorham	Residential	Unlocked door	iPods, watches
9/6	600 Blk E Gorham	Residential	Open window	Laptops, power cord
9/10	200 Blk S Dickinson	Non-Residential	Unknown	Attempted to steal canoe
9/11	200 Blk N Blair	Residential	Open window	Laptop, iPod, wallet, cash, CDs
9/11	1000 Blk Williamson	Residential	Door forced	Picture frame, glass science beaker
9/12	2100 Blk E Washington	Residential	Door kicked in	Cash
9/12	10 Blk N Randall	Residential	Unlocked door	Play station 3 and game
9/13	900 Blk E Johnson	Residential	Unlocked window	Laptop
9/13	500 Blk E Johnson	Residential	Open window	Laptop, stereo donut
9/13	600 Blk N Lake	Residential	Unlocked door	Laptop
9/14	10 Blk W Dayton	Non-Residential	Open area	Laptop
9/18	100 Blk W Gilman	Residential	Screen cut	Laptop
9/21	100 Blk N Blount	Residential	Unlocked window	LCD TVs, DVD player
9/21	500 Blk W Wilson	Residential	Window pushed in	Cash, safe, Playstation 3, jewelry
9/26	100 Blk N Few	Residential	Maintenance	Prescription medication
9/26	200 Blk E Lakelawn	Residential	Faulty lock	Electric piano, laptop

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