

## The Warrenton Police Department Enhances its **Response Rate to Child Abduction**

Warrenton, Missouri September 4, 2002 - When a child is reported missing, time is one of law enforcement's greatest enemies. Every hour a child is missing, the likelihood of a safe recovery decreases. In order to ensure a high level of preparedness for child abduction cases, the Warrenton Police Department today announced the implementation of LOCATER, the Lost Child Alert Technology Resource.

There are many challenges facing law enforcement personnel in missing child cases. One of the greatest is collecting and disseminating the child's descriptive information quickly. With that goal in mind, LOCATER was created to provide the computer hardware and software needed to rapidly distribute critical missing child data on a local, statewide or nationwide basis.

The Warrenton Police Department will be utilizing all resources available to ensure that if, in the rare case a child from Warrenton or the surrounding area should go missing the agency will do all it can to ensure a safe recovery.

The Warrenton Police Department obtained and is pleased to be working with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) to implement LOCATER. United States Congressional funds allow NCMEC to provide the LOCATER system free-of-charge to law enforcement agencies that investigate missing child cases. NCMEC has found that when pictures of missing children or abductors are made available to the public, one in six children are recovered as a direct result.

Use of the LOCATER system, comprised of a Dell Pentium IV computer, HP DeskJet 940C printer, high-resolution scanner, and customized software, is not limited to missing children cases. It includes templates for more than 100 different types of posters such as missing adults, wanted persons, and crime alerts. The system is also compatible with the AMBER Plan (See [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) for more information).

## **Warrenton School Resource Officer Program**

The Warrenton Police Department was awarded a "Local Government/School District Partnership Grant" from the Missouri Department of Public Safety, for the 2001/2002 budget year. The funds from the grant will be used to place a School Resource Officer in the Warren County R3 High School. The Department of Public Safety, Warren County R3 School District, and the City of Warrenton will each provide 1/3 of the officer's salary.

The purpose of the School Resource Officer is to bridge the gap between police officers and students by increasing positive contact with law enforcement personnel, and break down current communication barriers that exist. In addition to law enforcement issues, the School Resource Officer takes on the roll of mentor, counselor, teacher, and security officer.

### **The Goals for the Warrenton School Resource Officer Program are:**

1. Reduce the number of juvenile related crimes within the schools, by supporting a wide spectrum of services and programs that include prevention and intervention.
2. To foster educational programs and activities that will increase student's knowledge of and respect for the law and the function of law enforcement agencies.
3. Ensure an atmosphere of safety and security to enhance the overall learning environment.
4. To develop an excellent working relationship between school faculty, and police.