

ACT HAPPENINGS

Take Home and Share with Your Family!

Summer, 1999

New Anonymous, Toll-Free, Anti-Violence Tip Line: Call 1-877-APD-TIPS (1-877-273-8477)

Abington youth have a new key chain, and it could be a life saver! Either blue and white or maroon and white, the key chain tags bear the new anonymous, toll-free, anti-violence tip number into the Abington Police Department: 1-877-APD-TIPS (1-877-273-8477).

Set up as a safety valve especially for Abington youth to help prevent school violence, this number can be used to report any observed or overheard threats of violence and crime throughout the community. Abington parents and concerned citizens may also phone in tips on this number at any time.

Lieutenant Dennis McCauley points out, "With this number, students can go to a pay phone and call. They don't need any money, and they remain anonymous." He also stresses that "this phone number is not a substitute for 911 emergencies. If people are in a life-threatening situation, one should call 911 immediately."

This is a 24-hour number. The caller will get either a person during staff hours or a voice messaging system at other times. The message system immediately pages a police officer who retrieves the message. Some of the tips that may be called into this line include knowledge of fights, underage drinking, and drug selling or possession. In the wake of the Littleton, Colorado high school tragedy, the Abington Police Department in cooperation with the Abington School District set up this tip line so that police can respond to and prevent potential youth violence.

The Abington Community Taskforce (ACT) is a coalition of parents and Abington-based educational, religious, social service, recreational, civic, and law enforcement agencies. Its mission is to create a responsible, caring, and safe community. ACT welcomes comments, suggestions, and ideas for future events. For more information, contact Kelley Warner at the Abington Police Department: (215) 885-4450 extension 606, or Shelly Erwine, Abington School District: (215) 881-2570. ACT would like to express appreciation to Abington Memorial Hospital for its assistance in printing this publication.

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