



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – MOBILE COMMUNITY WATCH PROGRAM TO EXPAND

[Lancaster, Ohio, March 2, 2011] Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen is pleased to announce that his Mobile Community Watch program is entering its fifth year and is surpassing all expectations. Sheriff Phalen stated, “With the Sheriff’s Office budget reductions and the elimination of seven employees this year, the Community Watch Program is invaluable.”

Mobile Community Watch members are patrolling the streets of Fairfield County in four retired cruisers and one car donated by Layman Pontiac of Lancaster. Each car is specially marked “Community Watch” and is outfitted with amber warning lights. Mobile Community Watch members respond to some non-emergency calls for service, participate in special events and assist Deputies in incidents in their patrol area. For all emergency situations the Members are instructed to safely observe and report.

Sheriff Phalen reports that volunteers have logged several thousand hours of patrol time last year alone. Volunteers are staffing an average of two cars on the street at least five evenings per week and have already made a positive impact on the communities they are patrolling.

The Fairfield County Sheriff’s Office is planning to start selection of the fifth class of recruits for the Mobile Community Watch program in March, with the 48-hour mandatory training beginning in late April. Any Fairfield County or Village of Canal Winchester resident interested in applying for the program is encouraged to contact Pam Renko or Sgt. Jared Collins at 740-652-7900. You may also stop by any Sheriff’s Office facility to pick up an application. For internet users you may visit the Sheriff’s Office web site at www.sheriff.fairfield.oh.us to download a copy of the application. If you have already completed and submitted the application, we will be in contact with you in early March with further instructions. Sheriff Phalen thanks all applicants for their patience with the applications process. Applications will be accepted for the 2011 class until at least April 15th.