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# CARMEL OBSERVER

(317) 571-2500

March 2009

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## **Crime Watch Coordinators and Block Captains:**

Thank you to all the Crime Watch Captains who attended our annual Crime Watch Meeting. Your involvement in the Crime Watch Program provides us with another set of eyes. We appreciate all your help.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

The 2009 Law Enforcement Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 at 7:00 pm at the Gazebo at Carmel's Civic Square.

The service is held each year to honor fallen law enforcement officers from Hamilton County. Representatives from all law enforcement agencies in Hamilton County will be participating.

## **Reminder**

Please remind your neighbors to keep their garage door down and doors locked. Keep your entry ways to your home well lighted and trim shrubbery that could conceal criminal activity near doors and windows.

## **New E-Scams**

### **Fake Military Twist on Vehicle Sale Scams**

*Source: FBI Cyber Investigations*

The FBI continues to receive reports of individuals victimized while attempting to purchase vehicles via the Internet. Victims find attractively priced vehicles advertised at different Internet classified ad sites. Most of the scams include some type of third-party vehicle protection program to ensure a safe transaction. After receiving convincing e-mails from a phony vehicle protection program, the victims are directed to send either the full payment, or a percentage of the payment, to the third-party agent via a wire payment service. No vehicles are delivered to the victims.

In a new twist, scammers are posing as members of the United States military. The fictitious military personnel in the scam have either been sent to a foreign country to improve military relations, or they need to sell a vehicle quickly and cheaply because of their upcoming deployment to either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Consumers are advised to do as much due diligence as possible before engaging in transactions to purchase vehicles advertised online. Consumers are also cautioned to be aware of the rules of or warnings posted by the Internet sites they visit. If someone is asking you as a consumer to break or avoid the rules of the website, it is possible that person is trying to scam you.

If you have fallen victim to this type of scam, please notify the IC3 (Internet Crime Complaint Center) by filing a complaint at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov).

**Be Alert**

Remember to call and report any suspicious activity. For non-emergencies call 571-2580. Emergency dial 911.

*Questions, Comments or Concerns,  
Please give us a call.*

<i>Major Jim Barlow</i>	<i>571-2527</i>
<i>Luann Thurston</i>	<i>571-2530</i>
<i>Ann Gallagher</i>	<i>571-2720</i>