

New services empower crime victims

Online listings, hot line offer update options

Shay Randle
grandle@theadvertiser.com

May 28, 2009

Crime victims now have more access to information about the custody status of their offenders thanks to an upgraded version of the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office Louisiana Automated Victim Notification System, or LAVNS.

Citizens can call the LAVNS' toll-free hot line at 866-LAVNS-4-U or check the Lafayette Sheriff's Office Web site, www.lafayettesheriff.com, to find out if their offender is in jail. They also can register to be notified automatically when that offender is released or transferred to another facility, or if that offender escapes.

When the change occurs, the victim will receive within minutes notification calls regarding the status every half-hour for 48 hours or until the victim confirms notification by entering a personal identification number.

"That way if a child picks up the phone the first time around, and the proper person does not get the message, then LAVNS will contact them until someone enters the appropriate code," Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Craig Stansbury said.

The system is funded by the Office of the Governor and the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement and provided by Appriss' Inc.

Stansbury said the 24-hour, live Web-based part of the service is unusual to very few law enforcement agencies in the state.

"This empowers anyone who has been a victim, whether it is the actual victim or the family," he said. "The sheriff tries to stay on the cutting edge of technology to provide citizens with the safety and security they need."

This service is available not only to victims, but to any citizen who wishes to register for it.

Additional Facts

How does it work?

Go to www.lafayettesheriff.com.

Go to the JADES system.

Look up name of inmate.

Click on logo and register with personal information to receive status updates.

Want to know more?

For more information, contact the Lafayette Parish Sheriff's Office at 236-5657, ext. 31, or go to the Sheriff's Office Web site at www.lafayettesheriff.com.