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Schenectady Dives into Swimming Pool ID Program

Schenectady Sheriff Department to Issue SAFE Child Photo IDs

SCHENECTADY – The City of Schenectady and the Schenectady County Sheriff's Department have announced they will partner in issuing SAFE CHILD photo IDs at City pools. Starting next week any youth, 14 years old or older, will be required to produce a photo ID for entrance to any City pool. "The program is designed to promote a safe and family friendly environment," said Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy. The photo IDs are issued free-of-charge and can be obtained at City pools, Tuesday, July 5 through Thursday, July 14.

Schenectady County Deputy Sheriffs are scheduled to issue SAFE CHILD ids at:

Central Park Administration Building	July 5 and 12, Noon to 3 p.m.
Hillhurst Pool	July 7 and 14, Noon to 3 p.m.

Acting Mayor McCarthy will be on hand for part of the afternoon, at Central Park, on July 5, to greet swimmers and assist in the application process. SAFE CHILD equipment uses digital fingerprinting technology and high resolution photography capabilities to produce SAFE CHILD cards for parents and guardians. The cards contain a child's name, biographical information (date of birth, gender, height, weight, hair color, eye color, etc.), and a fingerprint image of both index fingers. The card is made in less than two minutes and can be easily carried in a wallet or pocketbook. Interested parents can choose to store the fingerprints, basic biographical information and photographs of children who are not missing – information critical to expediting the return of a missing child.

"The ids help create relationships between park staff and swimmers, provide an emergency contact and help control potential problems," said Ed Montgomery, Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.

Youth must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to apply for a SAFE CHILD photo ID.

Other acceptable forms of ID are a New York State driver's license or learner's permit, a school issued photo ID or a Department of Social Services Benefit Card.