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News

Program exposes dangerous fugitives

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By Jerry Wolfe, Journal Register News Service

Comcast partners with police agencies.

Cable giant Comcast announced this week it has joined forces with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the Grosse Pointe Shores Police Department to launch a new crime-fighting tool that will help track down some of the area's worst criminals.

"Police Blotter On Demand" combines public service programming with video-on-demand to expose dangerous fugitives and enhance public safety, the company said.

Digital cable customers can tune into "Police Blotter On Demand" to view photographs and profiles from some of the most wanted scofflaws in the Detroit metro area.

Viewers who have information about a featured fugitive will be directed to contact police and leave an anonymous tip.

"Partnering with Comcast allows us to get in front of thousands of local residents interested in keeping their communities safe," Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard said at the unveiling of "Police Blotter On Demand."

"As offenders get smarter, so must we, and 'Police Blotter On Demand' helps us use the latest technology to stay ahead of the curve," Bouchard said.

Comcast said the feature shows its commitment to protecting the public.

"Comcast is committed to promoting public safety and providing 'On Demand' programming that is meaningful to the local community," said Tom Coughlin, senior vice president for Comcast in Michigan.

"Law enforcement agencies in other areas of the country are already starting to use tips from Comcast customers in their efforts to track down dangerous individuals," he added.

"This is one more way we can give back — by bringing those wanted by the police front and center for all to see and increase the chances of their apprehension," Coughlin said.

The profiles, which are frequently updated, run for two months or until the fugitive is caught, whichever comes first, Comcast said.

As additional police agencies join the partnership, the number of suspects will increase accordingly.

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