London's Is Falling



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Police warn of purse thefts

Farmington Public Safety Department has issued a Noighborhood Watch Alert after a rash of purse thefts.

The perpetrator has gone into three homes in the area of Chatham Hills subdivision and stolen

"We're telling people to light up noise and lock up." said Farmington Fublic Safety director Gary Goss. "He apparently goes around and cards, the checks the doors and sees if they're unlocked. He's a real opportunist."

One victim said she heard a cash.

noise around 10 p.m. while study-ing. She later noticed her purse, containing \$7 cash and credit cards, missing.

Two purses were taken from a residence on Saxony Sept. 3, in-cluding one containing \$400 in cash.

Review safety with schoolchildren



School has begun, bringing with it all the many dangers that school children face. Parents can safe guard children for the safety rules with them and by remaining aware.

Train your the safets route to

children to use the safest route to school and back home. Some things to watch for when choosing the safest route for your children

The most direct, safe route. Fewest street crossings.

Special school crossings, such as walking bridges over express-

ways.

Protected crossings, such as those with an adult crossing guard or safety patrol member.

Avoid complicated intersec-

tions.

Traffic signals with a separate

Walk/Don't Walk indicator.

Sidewalks, pathways or bake when the bus arrives.

■ Play away from traffic.

■ Be specially careful on rainy, anowy or foggy days.

■ Never cross between parked

cars.

When bleyeling to school, follow bleyele safety rules and always lock your bike to the bike rack.

When walting for a school bus:

Stay a safe distance from the roadway.

B No pushing or horseplay.

■ Sidewalks, pathways or bake paths.
■ Unobstructed views.
Safe routes should also be planned for travel to other places as well, such as routes to friend's homes, playerounds, etc.
Some traffic rules with children includes with the player includes with the player includes the player inclu Also teach children to be alert and aware of atrangers. When possible, they should walk together. If a child encounters a problem or becomes afraid of someone following him or her, they should approach a house which has a "Helping Hand" sign displayed in the window (as you show children their route to school, point out houses which display the "Helping Hand," so they'll know in advance which would be best to approach if necessary.) nach, if necessary.)

Helping Hands volunteers are screened and trained by the police department. The Helping Hands symbol for this year is a black

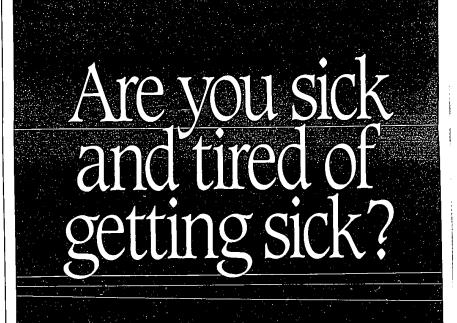
hand on a green background which is displayed prominently in a front window of each volunteer's home. Children should be taught that the Helping Hand sign is a promise of help if they become lost, turt, ill or threatened.

Kids should be instructed new to get into a car or go anywhere with a stranger or someone they don't trust, not to take shortcuts down lonely streets, and to always walk with a friend.

Parents should establish therown "Bus Stop Watch" to monitor activities at each bus stop in the area. If something looks auspicous, or if you see someone hanging around for no apparent reason, call the police department immediately to report it. If a marked police car drives by, it could help to prevent problems. Remember the ultimate responsibility for children's safety lies with the persents. Take time with your children now to prevent problems later.

Kim Kemske is a crime preven-

Kim Kemske is a crime preven-tion specialist with the Farming-ton Hills Police Department.



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