

# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

February 2009

### **Kids Home Alone, How Old Is Appropriate?**

With both parents working in these economically trying times; one question keeps creeping up in the minds of parents, "How old can my child be, to be left home alone?" There is not a clear-cut legal answer to this question for kids who are under 14 years of age. The law is clear on 14 years and older; they are able to stay home alone. Kendall County Assistant States Attorney Brenda Karales was asked this question. The legal and moral response would be is the child responsible? Do they know basic safety procedures, can they provide for themselves? This age could be ten or it could be sixteen; it really has to do with their maturity. Would you trust them to cook on the stove, would they know when and how to contact the police or an ambulance in case of an emergency? What's the duration and what other children are present? Can you justify your decision in a court of law either criminal or civil?

A parent has to make this decision, you know your child better than anyone else. Will there be a little anxiety with this decision? Yes there will be, try easing into this by leaving them on their own for an hour or two. Inform a trusted neighbor to keep an eye out. Give thorough directions of what to do for all situations. Trust your judgment if you are not comfortable leaving them alone, than don't do it.

Time is on your side.

### **Yorkville Citizen's Police Academy Class**

The Yorkville Police Department is excited to announce the scheduling of our fourteenth Citizen's Police Academy. If you are interested to learn more about your government, this is the class for you. It is always nice to meet these people before you need them to obtain a personable relationship before you need their services.

The class will begin in November and continue for thirteen weeks. The day of the class could be either Monday or Wednesday; this will be determined by general consensus of the participants.

The majority of the classes will be at the Yorkville Library conference room, but if there are conflicting schedules we will be at Yorkville Middle School.

There will also be three scheduled field trips to local agencies. The classes are from 6:30-9:00 PM or you could be dismissed earlier if the instructor completes their information. You will never be asked to stay later, but we have always had participants requesting that the sessions go longer.

The classes are open to people who are eighteen years of age or older who work in Yorkville or live within the Yorkville School districts boundaries. The classes are free and applications can be obtained from the police department or on line at [www.yorkville.il.us](http://www.yorkville.il.us).

### **Snow Ordinances**

The Yorkville's Police and Public Works departments would like to remind Yorkville residents of parking ordinances in place during the winter season.

Parking is prohibited on any streets in Yorkville, except for emergency vehicles during emergencies, after a snowfall of more than two inches. Parking is not allowed on any city street in Yorkville after a two inch snowfall for 24 hours after the snowfall has ended.

Violations may result in a \$50 fine per occurrence. The city retains the right to tow any illegally parked vehicle and to assess to the owner any and all reasonable towing charges as are billed to the city.

When shoveling your driveway and sidewalks, do not deposit snow onto the streets. A direct hazard could be attributed to these actions, not only in criminal charges but in civil litigation if an individual is injured following these actions. Violations may result in a \$50 fine. Any Yorkville inspector, employee, officer, or citizen observing a violation should notify the Yorkville Police Department.

Please be considerate of the police and public works departments' purpose during these seasonal times and make the winter season a little less hazardous for everyone by keeping the streets clear for the plows to move through.

Please call 630-553-4340 with any questions regarding these ordinances.

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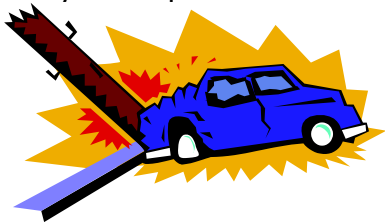
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### DUI Facts

With the new year upon us there have been new penalties implemented that include after one conviction for a DUI the second conviction will produce a mandatory breath alcohol ignition interlock device system installed in the vehicle. The instrument reads the drivers blood alcohol content, (BAC) through their breath before allowing the vehicle to start. The device costs approximately \$150.00 to install and a \$30.00 monthly charge.

There is no magic number as to how many drinks an individual may have that would keep their BAC below .08. There are a few factors that play a part in how much someone can drink: whether the drinker is a male or a female, how much an individual weighs, and how quickly one drinks the alcohol. The "one drink and hour" rule applies when trying to watch how much one is drinking at a party. If someone is pulled over and charged with DUI there are many consequences.



The penalties for a DUI conviction are severe. For an individual who is under the age of 21, there is a minimum of 2 years for loss of driving privileges. There is also a possibility of going to jail for 0-12 months and fines of up to \$2500. For an individual who is

over the age of 21, the consequences are similar. There is a loss of driving privileges for a minimum of 1 year, possibility of up to 1 year in jail, and fines up to \$2500.

In addition to the legal consequences for a DUI, there is a monetary consequence as well. One needs a lawyer to defend the driver, but loss of wages from missing work for court, higher insurance rates, and possibly losing one's license. This can all add up to about \$5,000, even if the driver is not convicted. Above and beyond these penalties, there are extenuating factors that complicate the basic sentencing and fines.

If there is death or serious injury involving loss of life or disfigurement, there are possible felony charges involving more time in prison or hefty fines up to \$25,000. Above and beyond the criminal charges there is also civil liability when there is a serious accident. An individual's family members can sue a DUI driver after the criminal litigation is finished. Civil litigation can lead to large settlements against the DUI driver and can potentially ruin the financial well being of that individual.

A DUI crash can have an impact that friends and family feel the rest of their lives. The sudden loss of a friend or family can leave those who experienced the loss with depression and questions that may never be answered. An individual who is involved in a crash who survives, but faces

serious long-term effects such as surgeries or rehabilitation have to live with the hardships

### Resident Park Patrol

The Superintendent of Parks, Scott Sleezer is again requesting some help from all Neighborhood Watch participants. During the winter months many of the parks are not being used due to weather conditions, but damage and misuse can still happen. In fact because the parks are more desolate some older kids may hang out and misuse or damage the equipment.

If you see someone abusing your parks please do not hesitate to contact the police. If you also notice any damage due to a tree falling or some other Mother Nature destruction please call the Parks Department at (630) 553-4370.

Remember no matter what time of the year it is the parks close at dusk. Thanks for caring and giving your extra attention to this matter.



### On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:

[www.yorkville.il.us](http://www.yorkville.il.us)

Illinois Laws:

[www.legis.state.il.us](http://www.legis.state.il.us)

Secretary of State:

[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)