

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

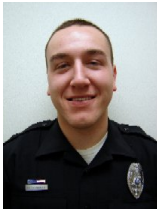
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

July 2008

Meet Our Employees

We have made a complete circle with our newest officer. Officer Behr Pfizenmaier started in Yorkville as our first cadet.

Officer Behr Pfizenmaier



Officer Behr Pfizenmaier started at Yorkville Police Department as a cadet and was then hired by the Kendall County Sheriff's Department as a patrol deputy. Officer Pfizenmaier completed his Police Training Institute (PTI) training from Suburban Law Enforcement Academy (SLEA) at the College of DuPage. Prior to this he completed his Criminal Justice Associate degree from Waubensee Community College and is continuing his education at Judson University.

Officer Pfizenmaier grew up in Yorkville and has always aspired to become a police officer. His law enforcement interests include traffic and later in his career he would be interested in becoming a school resource officer. His hobbies include participating in softball and is an avid Cubs fan attending games whenever possible.

Officer Pfizenmaier is a true asset to the Yorkville Police Department and we are very excited about him joining our ranks.

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 September 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 I have to tell you, the evaluations that are completed exclaim that there was not enough time per session.

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.

Kids Home Alone - How Old Is Appropriate?

The summer is here and the kids are free from their school obligations. One question that comes up quite often is, "How old can a 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.

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Project ChildSafe Gun Locks

The Yorkville Police Department is a partner with the Project ChildSafe program whose sole purpose is to lock guns in an attempt to make them safe. The locks are free to the individual gun owner.



It is our belief that this type of prevention is one of the most important programs that we have been associated with. This simple procedure of placing a cable through the working mechanism of a gun and locking it can save a life of a curious child or careless adult who is not familiar or comfortable with guns. By doing this it does not preclude the owner to keep the gun in a safe place out of reach of a child or from a potential theft.

Make sure you educate your child about gun safety. If you are not comfortable with this task check with local gun clubs; there are always safety classes being presented.

Stop by the Yorkville Police Department to obtain your free gun lock, or for further information call Sgt. Barry Groesch (630) 553-8511. Gun safety is every firearm owner's responsibility.

N/W Block Parties

The Yorkville Police Department is implementing new rules regarding neighborhood watch block parties. Permission will need to be granted and a signed agreement will need to be obtained prior to the block party. We are also very excited about having a block party trailer that will be assigned to a Yorkville block party on a first come first serve basis.

The trailer has four picnic tables, one 55-gallon garbage drum, and two road barricades. The barricades will only be able to be utilized if your block is suitable for blocking the road otherwise the barricades will be locked to the trailer.

The person scheduling the party will be held responsible for the trailer and equipment and will have to sign all pertinent paperwork. Taking the equipment off and putting it make on the trailer will be the responsibility of the scheduler along with the garbage removal.

The trailer will also be used in emergency situations through the police department. If one of these situations arises the trailer would be taken out of block party duty.

If you are a registered Yorkville Neighborhood Watch group and are interested in booking the block party trailer please call Sgt. Barry Groesch at 630 553-8511.

Radio Patrol

The Yorkville Police Department is on WSPY 107.1 FM. Barry Groesch is co hosting a half hour radio show called Yorkville Police Department on Radio Patrol. The purpose of this show is to highlight criminal justice programs throughout Kendall County. We have had shows regarding bike patrol, senior services, evidence technician, and accident reconstruction to name a few.

Future shows will publicize probation, what does it mean when someone is on probation and what does a probation officer do? How about the Circuit Clerk job description, what do they do? What happens to the money that is collected from citations, who gets what and how is it divvied up?

Our show is aired live on the first Friday of each month at 9:05 until 9:35 AM. If you are interested to learn anything specific about our judicial system please contact Barry Groesch at 630 553-8511 and he will entertain that subject on the next show.

On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:
www.yorkville.il.us

Illinois Laws:
www.legis.state.il.us

Secretary of State:
www.cyberdriveillinois.com