



YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

July 2010

National Night Out

Join us in celebrating the 27th National Night Out on Tuesday, August 3rd, 2010. While the first celebration included turning on porch lights and joining with your neighbors to take a stand against crime, today, the National Night Out celebration has expanded greatly. In Yorkville, events will be held at Town Square Park from 6pm to 8pm.

We also encourage Neighborhood Watch groups to get involved by organizing block parties that day. If your neighborhood is not part of an organized Neighborhood Watch Group, having a neighborhood get-together that night might be a great way to talk with your neighbors about forming one.

Police Department E-Mail List

Starting this month, we will be sending out e-mail notifications when new Neighborhood Watch Newsletters are available online. If you would like to sign up to receive these notices, along with other police department announcements, you can do so by going to www.yorkville.il.us and clicking on E-Mail Alerts on the left side of the page. You can choose which city e-mail lists you would like to receive, including the police department's. By reading the newsletter online, you can help us save paper and reduce printing costs.

Amended Burning Ordinance

Recently, the City Council amended the Open Burning Ordinance (Title 4, Chapter 1, Section 1 of the City Code). While much of the ordinance remains the same, the following changes were made:

- Burning is no longer restricted to daylight hours only.
- Materials which can be burned are limited to untreated paper, paper products, untreated wood, stumps and logs. Leaves and plant material are prohibited from being burned, as well as treated paper, paper materials and plastic-coated materials.
- Burning must be continuously controlled and supervised by an adult.
- Adequate fire suppression devices must be immediately available and all fires must be completely extinguished.
- Fires must be at least twenty feet away from any structure.
- Fires must be contained in a suitable device or fixture that prevents embers from blowing to neighboring property.
- Wind conditions must not exceed 10 MPH.

The new ordinance may also be viewed online at www.yorkville.il.us. Go to Government > Ordinances and then click on City Code Book. It can be found under "Ordinances Pending Codification."

Feral Cats

Some areas of Yorkville have populations of feral cats and we often receive questions about dealing with them in neighborhoods. These cats are not stray animals or wild cats, but are offspring of domestic cats that have not had human contact. These colonies of cats make their homes around businesses and alleyways, abandoned buildings and residential areas; and any place that can provide them food and shelter.

Flea infestations and poor food sources can lead to these cats having various parasites and bacterial infections. Unvaccinated cats also have the potential of carrying rabies. They may pose some threat to humans, such as through bites or contact with feces. They may also pose a threat to your pet cats by spreading diseases such as Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. In addition to health risks, feral cats may also threaten local wildlife populations and compete with other predators for food.

Experts say the best way to help control this problem is through spaying and neutering and educating owners about not releasing their domestic cats into the wild.

If you have a feral cat problem in your neighborhood, please contact Kendall County Animal Control 630-553-9256 for further information.

Summer Driving

As you are traveling this summer, here are a few driving tips to help keep you and your family safe on the roadways:

- Watch out for pedestrians, cyclists, rollerbladers and others, especially at intersections. Warm weather and summer recreation activities bring more people, especially children, outdoors. Those who do not routinely do these activities may not be as aware of traffic and its dangers.
- As you load up your vehicle, whether headed out on a family vacation or across town to a sporting event, make sure that loose objects in your car are secure. In an accident, these objects will fly around inside the passenger compartment and can easily cause injuries.
- Be cautious around RV's and vehicles pulling trailers. Often, people only drive these vehicles occasionally during the year and are not as experienced with them. Give these vehicles a wide berth, making sure they can see you in their mirrors, just as you would with semi-trucks.
- The late-setting summer sun can make it easy to lose track of time and stay out later than you may have intended. As always, avoid driving if you are sleepy. Consider having someone else drive or stay overnight before heading home.
- In the summer, the orange and white barricades of road construction can be found all over. Obey construction zone speed limits and be attentive to construction workers in the area. Also remember that cell phone use is not allowed in these areas, unless the phone is in voice-activated mode (see 625 ILCS 5/12-610.1).

Address & Name Changes

Have you recently moved or changed your name? State law requires that you notify the Secretary of State within 10 days of changing your name or address to update your driver's license and registration information. Address changes can be made online at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

Name changes can only be made in person with proper documentation at a Driver Services Facility. The nearest facility is located on Route 34 in Plano and can be reached at 630-552-9895.

Robbery Versus Burglary

The public often uses these two terms interchangeably, however they each refer to separate, distinct crimes.

Robbery is defined in the Illinois Criminal Code as when a person "takes property... from the person or presence of another by the use of force or by threatening the imminent use of force." In other words, in a robbery, someone is taking property from a person, using force or the threat of force to take control of that property. It is considered armed robbery when the offender carries a firearm or other dangerous weapon.

In contrast, burglary, sometimes referred to as "breaking and entering," is defined by the Illinois Criminal Code as knowingly and without authority entering, or without authority remaining within, a building, housetrailer, watercraft, aircraft, motor vehicle, railroad car, or any part thereof, with intent to commit a felony or theft. While burglary is often thought of in conjunction with stealing property, if the person enters the premise intending to commit any felony, this would also be considered burglary. This intent to commit a felony or theft is what distinguishes a burglary from criminal trespass.

Project ChildSafe Gun Locks

Project ChildSafe is a nationwide program that was developed as part of the national government's Project Safe Neighborhoods program. The goal of Project ChildSafe is to educate people about gun safety and to provide gun locks to safely store firearms.

If you have firearms in your household, take the time to ensure they are safely stored; especially if there are children around your household. If you have not already, we urge you to obtain gun locks for your firearms. They are available through the Project ChildSafe program free of charge at the Yorkville Police Department during regular business hours.

Ordinance Enforcement & Administrative Adjudication

If you regularly read the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter, you have probably become acquainted with many of Yorkville's ordinances. You may not, however, be familiar with how the ordinances are enforced. Citations issued for ordinance violations, which can include vehicle equipment violations, do not go against your driving record, but rather are processed locally through a civil proceeding.

"P" tickets may be paid before the hearing date if you wish to plea liable. If you wish to contest the citation, you may appear at the administrative hearing. "N" tickets require you to appear before the hearing officer, who will then set the fine amount if you are found liable. Hearings are held on Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm in the City Council Chambers. If the date falls on a holiday, an alternate hearing date is set.

More detailed information explaining the administrative adjudication system can be found at www.yorkville.il.us by going to Departments > Police > Adjudication Hearings.