

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

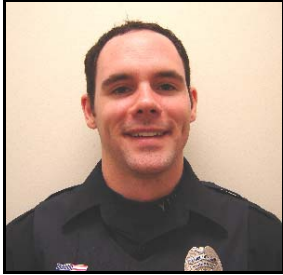
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

March 2007

Meet Our Employee

This month our featured employee is Officer Robbie Hart who has recently been assigned as a School Resource Officer.

Officer Hart



Officer Hart's hometown is Ottawa and he graduated from Western Illinois University in 2002 with a degree in Law Enforcement and Justice administration. He started his law enforcement career with the Yorkville Police Department and has been with us for four years.


Officer Hart has been trained in several aspects of law enforcement including Juvenile Officer, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), Certified Bike Officer and a Breath Alcohol Operator. He was also a recipient of the state of Illinois 2004 Medal of Honor award for his work involving a death investigation in Yorkville.

Officer Hart has been assigned to and works out of the Yorkville Middle School, but teaches DARE at Yorkville Intermediate School and Grande Reserve Intermediate School. During the summer months you may see him contributing to the bike patrol.

Officer Hart is married and enjoys working out, fishing, softball, and golf.

Traffic Corner

DUI Facts

Since there have been a few DUI crashes  lately, this is a good time to go over the rules of drinking and driving. The blood-alcohol limit in the state of Illinois is .08. What this means is that at any given time, it is illegal for a driver of a motor vehicle to have a blood alcohol level that exceeds this number.

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 an 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 a 2-year 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, a 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 there is also a loss of wages from missing work for court, higher insurance rates, and possibly losing one's license to be considered. 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 additional time in prison and/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 will feel for the rest of their lives. The sudden loss of a friend or family member can leave those who experienced the loss with depression and questions that may never be answered. An individual who is involved in a crash and survives may face serious long-term effects such as multiple surgeries or rehabilitation, in addition to living with the hardships.

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New "Open Wine" Law

There has been a new law enacted within the state of Illinois that might seem a little confusing. This law involves the purchase of wine at restaurants. There are certain stipulations that would be beneficial for the consumer to know.



The law was designed to compliment the other alcohol consumption laws to encourage drinking less. Let me explain further; when you go out to eat and order a bottle of wine, you may feel obligated to drink the entire bottle of wine before leaving the establishment. Prior to this law there was no legal way to get the bottle home inside the confines of your vehicle. This new law allows you to take a partial bottle of wine home without making it illegal.

There are three points to this law that have to be adhered to.

- The licensee or agent of the licensee shall provide a dated receipt for the bottle of wine to the patron.
- The partially consumed bottle of wine MUST be securely sealed by the licensee (or an agent of the licensee) prior to the removal from the premises.

- The bottle must be placed in a transparent tamper proof bag designed for one-time use.

Wine that is resealed in accordance with the above provisions will not be considered an "unsealed container" for the purposes of Section 11-502 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

You as a consumer must be aware of the stipulations of this law, because you will be one receiving the citation, not the restaurant, if the law is not followed.

Super Seniors Program

We have planned an event that we feel will help our local seniors with their driving qualifications. We have partnered with the Secretary of State to have them bring out their mobile unit.

The Super Seniors Program consists of the following:

- Rules of the Road Review Course
- Vision Screening
- Driver's License/State ID Card (Renewal, Replacement, Corrections)
- Vehicle Sticker Sales
- Organ/Tissue Donor Information

To renew a current Illinois driver's license or identification card, a valid driver's license or identification card must be presented. To apply for a duplicate or corrected driver's license or identification card, two forms of identification must be presented. For information about acceptable forms of

identification, please call 217-782-7044 or visit their website at www.cyberdriveillinois.com.

This event will be held at the Beecher Center on Thursday, April 12, from 9:30am to 2:30pm. To reserve a classroom spot, contact Senior Services 630-553-5777.

Did You Know?

If you witness a traffic offense, and are able to obtain the license plate information and a look at the driver, you can issue a citation.

For example, you see a driver go through a stop sign and the person did not even slow down. You need to know what jurisdiction you are in and call that police agency. The officer will write the citation and set a court date, but you will have to appear in court to testify as to what took place. A court appearance will be needed only if the driver wants to contest the ticket.

This is a very serious matter and cannot be taken lightly. If you issue the ticket, you have to follow through by appearing in court.

On the Web

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

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

Secretary of State:
www.cyberdriveillinois.com