

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Meet Our Employee

Our cadet program has been a great success due to the outstanding candidates that have been hired in the past. We believe we have another great hire in Cadet Heather Schleuning.

Cadet Schleuning



Cadet Schleuning attended Yorkville High School and was active in basketball for two years. She admits that her curiosity in law enforcement started by watching television law shows that developed into a career choice.

Cadet Schleuning is now enrolled at Waubensee Community College and plans to attend Lewis University. Cadet Schleuning will complete her Criminal Justice Associates degree in 2008 and continue her education earning a Criminal Social Justice Bachelors degree from Lewis University.

Cadet Schleuning's hobbies include basketball and the sport of stock car racing where she would eventually like to compete in racing.

Neighborhood Watch Enhancements

You have a neighborhood watch group organized, now what do you do? There are several steps a basic watch

group should adhere to. Communication is the first and most important aspect of a Neighborhood Watch. Talking with your neighborhood participants and possibly setting up a block party would help keep the communication channels open. Working together to solve any issues within your neighborhood is the most successful avenue. If for example a problem arises regarding a dog or parking issues it is always easier to deal with it as a team approach after a relationship has been established.

Each captain has the option of hand delivering the monthly newsletters to their members. The police department will supply the captain with copies of the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter each month for this preference.

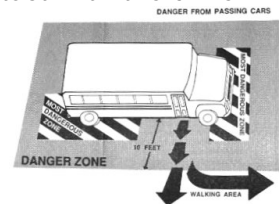
Your watch group will have to decide if each participant would want to be contacted if some type of damage was being done to your property. I don't believe there would be an issue if it was during daylight hours, but what about 2 AM? The concept is if someone starts damaging mailboxes we want you to contact the police first and then enact your phone tree so more eyes and ears can be witnesses. This is your choice as a watch group.

If you would like to do more with your Neighborhood Watch program please contact Sgt. Groesch at (630) 553-8511.

School Bus Safety Tips

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation in the nation; nearly 2,000 times safer than the family car. Accidents are rare because school districts and the school bus contractors who serve them work hard to train drivers to avoid getting into accidents. Additionally, buses are designed to withstand all but the most serious crashes without death or serious injury.

Surprisingly, more children are hurt outside a bus than inside one. Children must be alerted to the danger zone around every yellow school bus, especially if they bend over to retrieve a dropped school paper, or walk too closely to the bus while crossing the street. Many school districts teach children to take five giant steps as soon as they leave the bus to escape that danger zone. If children need to cross the street after exiting the bus, schools teach them to cross in front of the bus and to be sure they are able to maintain eye contact with the driver.



Perhaps the most difficult thing to teach children, especially young children, is to not go back and pick up items they've dropped near the bus or left on the bus.

Work with your kids on these issues. Safety is everyone's concern.

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ATM Safety Tips

You may have recently read in the local newspaper information regarding an ATM scam. This specific scam left a professional looking sign attached to the ATM stating that the deposit section of the ATM is mechanically not working and requested that all deposits to be left in the container alongside the ATM.

The container appeared to be fastened down and manufactured of sound material. A suspicious customer called the police and the container was found to be a decoy that someone had placed there. The box was taken into evidence where several bank deposits were found.

There are several different scams out there related to ATM's. Here are a few safety tips:



- Try to use machines you are familiar with, and use terminals located in banks rather than independent terminals.
- Be aware of your surroundings. Look around before completing a transaction.

- If you must use an ATM after hours, make sure it is well lighted.
- Shred your ATM receipts when you no longer need them.

Use general caution whenever you are dealing with money. Sometimes we become careless and forget how dangerous large sums of money can be.

Traffic Corner

As every driving instructor teaches, as your vehicle approaches an intersection, the driver should enter the intersection with caution. This is even more so if the traffic light has been green for a while. The chances of the light turning from green to yellow after it has been green for some time is possible. As a traffic light turns from green to yellow, a driver should take his or her foot off of the gas and begin to decelerate in anticipation to the light turning to red. I realize that to the majority of motoring public, a yellow light means punch the accelerator- the light is going to change. This mentality can cause traffic crashes as well as unneeded chances in an intersection

Another important point to remember when approaching an intersection is to make sure that at least one of the traffic signals is visible to you, the driver. This seems basic enough, but at times drivers are following semi tractors and box trucks so close that the traffic signal, especially at intersections where there are

not signals on the sides, but only over the top of the roadway, is not visible. The end result is the truck going through a yellow light, while the vehicle behind the truck follows, right through a red light. This could cause accidents and injuries due to cross traffic getting a green light and proceeding through the intersection.

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.

Contact the police department at (630) 553-4340 for further information.

On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:

www.yorkville.il.us

Illinois Laws:

www.legis.state.il.us

Secretary of State:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com