



# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

March 2010

## Peeping Tom

Over the past couple of months, we have received numerous complaints of a peeping tom in Yorkville. Thanks to watchful residents and officers, we have been able to apprehend this individual. Please remain vigilant and keep a watchful eye out and report this type of behavior to the police. Also remember to make sure to lock your doors and secure your windows.

## Reporting Suspicious People

Maybe you are at home and notice someone out of place, wandering the neighborhood and making you feel uneasy. Or maybe the person who just came to your door selling products ignored your "No Solicitors" sign in your window and refused your request to see their license permitting them to sell within the city limits. These are both circumstances where it is appropriate to call the police for assistance.

We hear many people say they do not want to bother the police, or feel that their problem is not serious enough for the police to need to address. However, our purpose as a police department is to serve and protect the citizens of Yorkville and that includes responding to calls such as those listed above. If you see someone in your neighborhood who is acting suspiciously, do not be afraid to call and ask that an officer come to the area.

## Calling the Police for Service

We often receive phone calls to our administrative office to report traffic crashes or other incidents that are occurring right now. We would like to encourage you to use 911 in these circumstances, as looking up the non-emergency number before reporting the incident, and then having to be transferred to the dispatch center, can delay our response to the scene.

However, sometimes people are afraid to call 911 because they feel their problem or concern does not qualify as an "emergency". For circumstances like these, we have a non-emergency number that is also answered by our dispatch center, 630-553-4343. If are concerned about the situation and wish to report it, but you do not want to give your name, you may always tell the dispatcher that you wish to remain anonymous.

And, as always, feel free to contact us at our administrative office at 630-553-4340 with any questions or concerns you may have.

## Child Safety Seat Checks

We have several officers who are trained to inspect the installation of child safety seats. We do not take appointments ahead of time, so we ask that you call us at 630-553-4340 to ensure someone will be available when you plan to come in.

Before coming to the police department, we ask that, if it is a new safety seat, to make sure it is out of its packaging. Take time to read through the installation instructions. If this is the first time you have installed a child safety seat, or the first time you have installed it in a particular vehicle, please follow the manufacturer's instructions to install the safety seat. When you arrive at the police department, the officer can then verify the seat is installed correctly or help you make modifications so that it is.

## Too Good to Be True?

You may receive e-mails with offers that sound too good to be true. A Nigerian prince needing your bank account number so he can deposit funds. You have won a prize and all you need to do to collect is cash a money order and send back a portion. These are all examples of financial scams, often sent via e-mail.

If you have lost money or believe your account has been compromised as the victim of a scam, please contact us to file a police report. However, if you have received a similar e-mail to those above, but have not been victimized, the best way to report this is through the website [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov), the federal government's Internet Crime Complaint Center. This is also a great resource for more detailed information on Internet crimes.

## **ATVs & Dirt Bikes**

As the weather warms and owners start bringing out their ATVs and dirt bikes, we would like to remind everyone that these types of vehicles may only be operated on private property with the permission of the property owner. They may not be driven on private property without the owner's consent, or on roadways or easements. Motorized vehicles are prohibited from being driven in city parks or on sidewalks. Please remember to be safe when operating these vehicles and wear proper protective clothing.

## **Crosswalks**

Just a reminder, state law provides that vehicles must slow down or stop in order to yield to pedestrians crossing the roadway. This applies when the pedestrian is "upon the half of the roadway upon which the vehicle is traveling, or when the pedestrian is approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger." Be especially watchful around city parks, including Town Square Park, where there is a lot of pedestrian traffic. For more information, please refer to 625 ILCS 5/11-1002. This and other traffic laws can be viewed online at [www.ilga.gov/legislation/](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/).

## **Administrative Tows**

Recently, a city ordinance was enacted that allows for the assessment of an administrative tow fee for vehicles involved in certain criminal offenses. This includes arrests made for Driving Under the Influence, Driving While License Suspended or Revoked, drug-related offenses and others. In addition to tow and storage fees assessed by the towing company, a \$500 administrative fee is also assessed by the City. This fee must be paid before the vehicle will be released by the tow company.

## **City Ordinances**

The City of Yorkville has many ordinances to help govern the city. As a resident of the city, it is important that you be aware of ordinances that might affect you. These ordinances can be viewed online from the city website. Go to [www.yorkville.il.us](http://www.yorkville.il.us), click on "Government" at the top of the page and go to "Ordinances". There, you will find a link to the city code book. Some ordinances you may want to review are the Noise Ordinance (Title 4, Chapter 4), the Animals Ordinance (Title 5, Chapter 2) and the many ordinances governing motor vehicles and traffic (Title 6). If you have questions about any ordinances, please feel free to contact us. If there is an ordinance you would like to see put in place, we encourage you to contact your alderman.

## **Severe Weather**

The first week of March is designated by the National Weather Service (NWS) and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) as Severe Weather Preparedness Week. As spring approaches, so too does severe weather. It is important to be prepared before severe weather strikes.

There are several things local government agencies have done to help warn you of impending weather events. In Yorkville, lightning detection systems have been installed to help warn people in city parks and school fields when lightning is near. The system uses one long horn blast to alert people that lightning is moving into the area. After the immediate threat has passed over the area, it sounds three short blasts of the horn as an all-clear. Remember that this is only a tool. If lightning or thunder is observed in the area, people should immediately move indoors to a safe location, whether the lightning detector has sounded

or not. As the NWS teaches, "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!"

There is another system of sirens in place throughout Kendall County. These are sirens you are probably more familiar with, known as outdoor warning sirens. You have probably heard them when they are tested at 10am on the first Tuesday of every month.

As their name implies, their function is to provide warning to anyone outside. You may or may not be able to hear these sirens inside of your house. While they are usually used to provide warning for approaching tornadoes, they may be used for other emergencies as well. In parts of Kendall County they may be sounded for an emergency at the Dresden Nuclear Plant. The sirens are set off by personnel at the dispatch center, on the advisement of the Kendall County Emergency Management Agency. Often, this is based on warnings put out by the Chicago NWS office.

When you hear the siren, please do not call 911. Instead, you should turn on your radio for further information and seek shelter. This will keep 911 lines clear for people calling for police, fire or EMS assistance.

Many people ask us why no "all-clear" siren is sounded. Because the siren may have to be sounded multiple times for tornado warnings during the course of one storm system, it would be impossible to tell if the siren was signaling to take shelter or if the weather has cleared. For that reason, you should continue to monitor your radio for updates.

There are many things you can do at home to prepare for severe weather as well. Make sure your battery-operated radio has fresh batteries for monitoring warnings. Also, designate a shelter area in your home and make sure it is accessible. For more tips and ideas, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).