



# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

May/June 2011

## Newsletter Changes

In looking at the newsletter, you may have noticed a few changes. We will be publishing the newsletter on a bimonthly basis starting this month. We have also made the text bigger to make it easier to read. We hope you like the new changes!

## Home and Car Burglary Prevention Tips

When the weather turns warm, home and car burglaries tend to increase. Burglary is a crime of opportunity. Most thieves look for an easy target. The majority of all thefts in Yorkville happen when people leave doors or windows unlocked. Don't become a victim! Make it difficult for a thief to target you by following these simple theft prevention tips:

### Keep an eye on open garage doors.

Each month patrol units report numerous open unattended garages. It only takes a moment for criminals to remove valuable items such as golf clubs, bicycles, alcohol and tools. Worse yet, a thief could enter your unlocked home or steal your car. Always close your garage door unless it is within immediate sight.

### Lock and secure all doors.

Make sure you have deadbolts on all doors leading to your home. To secure sliding glass doors, install a bar or special lock.

### Secure your vehicle.

Always roll up the windows and lock your car, even when it is parked in the garage or driveway. Never leave keys or valuables, such as cell phones, computers, purses or money in plain view. Remember, if a criminal breaks into your vehicle and steals your garage door opener or house keys, he now has easy access to your home.

### Mark your property for identification.

Engrave your valuables with your driver's license number. Marked property can be easily traced and identified as yours. Marked property is a proven burglary deterrent because it is difficult for a burglar to dispose of for resale. If a burglar is caught with marked property, it is solid evidence of possession of stolen goods.

### Leave on the light.

It only costs "a nickel a night" to leave on your front and back outside lights. Well-

lit areas deter criminals from taking advantage of the cover of darkness.

### Be aware, alert and active.

There cannot be a law enforcement officer on every corner in Yorkville, so citizen participation is essential to combat crime. Always report suspicious or unusual activity to the police. Get your neighbors together to start a Neighborhood Watch Program.



For more information on crime prevention Neighborhood Watch, National Night Out, contact the Yorkville Police Department at 630-553-4340.

Interested in more Neighborhood Watch Information? Visit the National Neighborhood Watch Institute's website at <http://www.nnwi.org/>

## Spring Has Sprung

Although not a police matter, many residents encounter wild animals in their neighborhoods, especially during the spring months. Living in the suburbs means sharing our yards with nature. Knowing a little about the local wildlife will help us understand what to do if we see a baby animal by itself.



### Orphaned, or right at home?

As explained by the University of Illinois Extension, baby animals that appear to have been left by their mothers are actually healthy and happy right where they are. For example, they state that "...mother rabbits normally spend no more than 5 minutes at their nest per day." So, while you are walking along the bike path it may seem the animals are abandoned, but in reality they are right where the mother wanted them.

To read the article in its entirety, go to <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/state/newsdetail.cfm?NewsID=20574>.

### What kinds of animals live in my back yard?

Illinois suburbs are home to fox, opossum, coyote, raccoon, squirrel, deer, muskrat, and many birds including visiting migrating birds, water fowl, and turkeys. To get acquainted with

wildlife, visit the Yorkville Public Library and check out a few books on Illinois wildlife. It can be a fun and rewarding hobby to see how many types of animals you and your family can spot around town and in your neighborhood!

### Hunting and fishing regulations.

Don't forget to renew your licenses! For regulations on hunting, fishing and laws regarding wildlife in Illinois, visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Pages/default.aspx>.

The IDNR website has information on how to apply for or renew hunting and fishing licenses, various hunting and fishing seasons, and even reserving campsites at state facilities.

### Bicycle Safety Tips

Everyone is eager to get outside to enjoy the warm weather and outdoor activities, such as cycling. As with any activity, we would like to remind everyone to be alert and put safety first!

### Wear a properly adjusted helmet.

"I know I should wear a bike helmet, but how do I know it fits correctly?" Good question. The goal of a bike helmet is to adjust for a level, snug fit.



### Guidelines for helmet fit:

1. *Eyes* - should see helmet edge when you look up.
2. *Ears* - straps should form a "Y" just under your ears.
3. *Mouth* - straps loose enough for a finger between buckle and jaw, but tight enough that the helmet pulls down on top of your head when you open your mouth wide.

### Do you remember your hand signals?



Hand signals are a cyclist's turn signals and brake lights. They let others know where you are going and what you intend on doing.

One good tip for cyclists is to make sure others know what you are doing, be safe and follow the Rules of the Road, but stay defensive and alert.

### Attention motorists.

Motorists need to be alert and aware of what is going on around them. Distracted driving, including texting while driving, is not safe, and can have disastrous results. Many accidents can be avoided by putting the cell phone down, and looking around.

### Bicycle Rules of the Road.

Available at the Illinois Secretary of State website in Adobe .pdf format: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf\\_publications/dsd\\_a143.pdf](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a143.pdf)