



# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

May 2010

## Air Rifles

Many people call with questions about the use of air rifles, including BB guns, airsoft guns, and paintball guns within the city limits. Here's a summary of Ordinance 99-22, which specifically addresses air rifles:

- Loaded air rifles may not be carried on any roadways or public land. However, air rifles that are unloaded, broken down or in a case may be carried in public areas.
- No air rifle may be discharged across any roadways, sidewalks or public land. They also cannot be used from any motor vehicle.
- Air rifles may be operated on private property, provided that the property owner has given their permission. The air rifle must be operated in a manner so as not to endanger any persons or property and so that the projectile does not leave the premises.

## Dog Ordinance Reminder

With summer nearly here, dog owners are taking advantage of the nicer weather to let their dogs out more. If you are a dog owner, please remember to be respectful of your neighbors and follow the local ordinances.

If a dog (or other domestic animal) is found on any public place or any unenclosed space without being restrained, it is deemed to be running at large.

“Restraint” is defined by ordinance as follows: “An animal is under restraint if it is confined by a fence of sufficient height and security (which may be an electronic invisible fence system) to prevent it from leaving the encompassed area, on a leash under the control of a responsible person, or on a leash securely fastened to an inanimate object and of a length which prevents it from leaving the property of its owner or keeper.” Based on this definition, an animal that is on your property, but not restrained in one of the ways listed above, would be considered to be at large.

It is also unlawful to allow an animal to defecate in public areas or on private property without the owner's consent without properly disposing of the waste.

If you are having problems with dogs in your neighborhood, there are a few ways this can be addressed. If you feel comfortable discussing the problem with the dog owner, you may wish to handle it that way. If not, when you see the animal running loose, or otherwise violating the city ordinance, you may report it to us and an officer can come out.

Ordinance citations may be issued for these violations. It is the officer's discretion to issue either a non-mandatory citation with a \$25 fine or to issue a mandatory citation where the violator is required to appear at an administrative hearing.

## Open Burning Ordinance

We would like to remind you that the burning of materials other than untreated paper and paper products and wood is prohibited in the City of Yorkville. The burning of untreated paper and paper products and wood is only permissible during daylight hours. The fire must be in a wire container to prevent the blowing of any burning material. Campfires in connection with group camp outings (such as scouts) or for recreational purposes by individuals are permitted, provided that the above guidelines are followed.

Violators may be issued a mandatory appearance ordinance citation. They will be required to attend an administrative hearing. If found liable, fines and court costs will be assessed by the hearing officer. For more detailed information, please see Section 4-1-1 of the City Code Book.

If you do have recreational fires, please practice good fire safety and be courteous of your neighbors. Avoid burning on particularly windy days or when it is very dry. Both can potentially lead to embers blowing and starting nearby grass, brush or other objects on fire. Smoke blowing from the fire may irritate nearby neighbors as well. When you are done enjoying your fire, make sure it is completely extinguished before leaving it unattended.

## Neighborhood Driving

Warmer weather and longer days are bringing more people outside. When driving, especially in residential areas, be watchful of pedestrians in the area and slow down. Often engrossed in what they are doing, adults and children alike may walk into the roadway without first checking for traffic. Toys may also find their way into the street (frequently with children following), and can cause a roadway obstruction.

Also be very watchful around the city parks. Town Square Park and Bicentennial Riverfront Park can be especially busy during special events, with pedestrians crossing major roadways to get to and from these parks. By state law, if pedestrians are in the roadway, you must yield to them. Brightly colored yellow signs are posted in these areas to remind drivers of this. For more information, please refer to 625 ILCS 5/11-1002.

## Emergency Contact Database

In August 2009, Illinois began a statewide emergency contact database. Anyone holding an Illinois driver's license or state identification can provide emergency contact information to be entered in this database. Available only to law enforcement and emergency personnel, the information is used to notify your designated contact(s) in an emergency situation where you cannot communicate. You can modify your information as needed and if you choose to no longer participate in the program, you can remove your emergency contact information.

The program is administered by the Illinois Secretary of State and can be accessed online at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/ecd/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/ecd/home.html). The website also has a list of frequently asked questions about the program.

## Curfew

One of the most frequently asked questions the police department receives is what are the curfew laws. Yorkville follows the state law and curfew for persons under the age of seventeen is 11pm on week nights (Sunday through Thursday) and midnight on weekend nights (Friday and Saturday). Curfew extends until 6am the next morning. Various exceptions to this exist, including activities related to employment, school and parent/guardian-requested errand. However, these exceptions specify that no detours or additional stops may be made. For a full list of exceptions, please refer to 720 ILCS 555/1.

Illinois' Graduated Driver's Licensing law restricts nighttime driving for anyone under the age of eighteen from 10pm to 6am on week nights (Sunday through Thursday) and 11pm to 6am on weekend nights (Friday and Saturday).

## Emergency Preparedness

You have probably seen commercials as part of the Ready.gov ad campaign, but you may or may not have gone to the website to see what it is all about. The general idea is for citizens to take steps to create an emergency plan for themselves and their families and have the supplies needed to take care of themselves immediately after a natural disaster or other incident until outside assistance becomes available.

With tornado season here, it is as good a time as any to start developing an emergency plan for your family. While a tornado may not strike the area, lengthy power outages due to storm-related damage are not uncommon and having an emergency kit for your family would be very helpful. Many tools can be found online at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) that will assist you and your family in being prepared for these and other disasters.

## Water Conservation

Beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> and continuing through September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Yorkville water conservation ordinance (Ordinance 06-123) will be in effect. The permitted hours of water use for landscape watering and pool filling are 5am – 9am and 9pm to midnight. Residents at even-numbered addresses are permitted to water only on even-numbered days while residents living at odd-numbered address are only permitted to water on odd-numbered days. At no time should anyone allow water to run into ditches, storm drains or street while using water for restricted purposes. Violators may be cited and assessed a \$100 fine.

Normal household water use, such as bathing and laundry, are not restricted by this ordinance. Also, watering using a handheld watering device is permitted, as well as automatic root feed or drip line watering systems for trees and shrubs.

If the water supply is diminished, due to dry weather or other circumstances, an emergency proclamation can be issued further restricting the use of water. Such proclamations would be posted at City Hall and released to local news media. Violations during an emergency proclamation will be assessed a \$200 fine.

In addition to the watering regulations, the laying of new sod and landscaping is also restricted during the summer months with the installation of new sod and landscaping being prohibited from July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>. From May 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup> and from September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, sod may be watered only after obtaining a permit. For more information about the specific regulations, or to obtain a sod watering permit, please refer to the ordinance or contact the Building Safety Department at 630-553-8545.