

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

November 2006

Meet Our Employee

This month's featured officer is the resourceful and energetic Officer Patrick McMahon.

Officer Patrick McMahon



Officer McMahon started his police career as a dispatcher for Forest Park Police Department. Fellow family members who are in the law enforcement field helped to influence his career choice. Officer McMahon continued his career path by attending Western Illinois University and obtaining a bachelors degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration in 2003. He started his police career in Yorkville in August of 2004 where he has honed his skills by attending several classes, covering such topics as Reid interviewing and interrogation, DUI enforcement and breathalyzer operator. He is also a certified child safety seat installer and a juvenile officer.

Officer McMahon is not married and is very dedicated to his job. He is also an avid Star Trek enthusiast.

Traffic Corner

The police officers at the Yorkville Police Department take 400 to 500 crash reports a year. As a result of these crashes, we have seen people who have walked away from rollover crashes with nothing more than a few bumps or bruises, but on the other hand, we have seen people who have been severely hurt or even killed in crashes that are relatively minor. The one constant that usually seems to dictate the severity of an injury is whether or not a seat belt is worn.

Illinois state law states that all parties in the front seat of a vehicle (driver and passengers) are to wear a properly adjusted seat belt at all times. The key words are properly adjusted. What this means is that the seat belt should be placed over and in front of the shoulder. If the seat belt is worn behind, or being sat on, it will not be able to protect an individual from injury as it was designed.

Some people are unable to wear seat belts for medical or physical reasons. Individuals who are in a position where a seat belt is unable to be worn can obtain a written statement from a physician stating that the individual is unable to wear a seat belt. This statement is to be kept on the individual at all times

while riding or driving a vehicle. If an officer stops the person for not wearing a seat belt, this statement should be produced to the officer. For the safety of those in your vehicle, insist on seat belts to be worn.

Captains Meeting

We have just completed our last quarterly captains' meeting for this year. Our speaker was Yorkville Parks Superintendent Scott Sleezer. Scott gave us an overview of the newly built parks and those currently being designed.

Superintendent Sleezer also gave a history of the Yorkville parks and how we got to where we are. One request he had was to keep an extra eye on the parks. One of the biggest problems are landscaping issues. Kids are climbing the immature trees and doing a substantial amount of damage.

If you see damage being done, we would like you to ask the child to stop doing the damage. If the child does not listen or you are uncomfortable talking to them please call the police so we can curtail this activity. If we act together we can solve a majority of the problems that we are having.

Our next meeting will be in January 2007.

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Neighborhood Watch Works

Recently one of our neighborhood watch residences in Rivers Edge Subdivision was burglarized. One of our members observed a vehicle parked in front of a neighbor's residence during the day and thought this to be unusual. The diligent Neighborhood Watch participant obtained a description of the vehicle and was even able to get the license plate as they went on an errand. When returning she observed the vehicle missing but the garage door was open. She now knew something was amiss and called in to the emergency 911-dispatch center where the description was forwarded to the Yorkville Police. When our officers arrived nine minutes later they observed the residence was burglarized. The information obtained by the Neighborhood Watch member was dispatched throughout our local area. Several minutes later a Montgomery police officer observed the suspect vehicle in a driveway unloading material into a residence, alerting Yorkville officers who then assisted.

The merchandise was already being sold to people before the burglars even arrived at their residence. All material has been returned

and five arrests were made all because of one concerned neighborhood watch member.

We as a police department are extremely proud of our Neighborhood Watch program. Lets all keep up the good work. If you see something suspicious in your neighborhood please do not hesitate, call us immediately. Lets send a message to this criminal element that Yorkville will not tolerate this type of behavior.

New Format

You may have noticed some changes to this newsletter. The Crimewatch section will no longer be included in the newsletter, but the information is now available online at www.yorkville.il.us. Just go to City Departments > Police > Police Blotter.

Because of the additional space this change gives us, we will now be able to provide you more articles and more information than before. This means we will have more guest writers who will share some of their specialty training. You may have noticed the "Traffic Corner" section, this is being written by our Traffic Unit.

We are excited about the opportunity to share more detailed information with you and look forward to our future newsletters.

Senior Police Academy

We completed our first Yorkville Senior Police Academy Conference on October 30th at the Kendall County Historic Courthouse. There were 91 participants who gave us rave reviews. We were told, "the speakers were the best", and the food from Panera Bread was, "Outstanding". We had nineteen different classes plus blood screenings, all offered at no cost to the participant.

The top attended sessions were Gypsy Confidence Crimes, High Cholesterol and Heart Disease, Legal Issues Affecting the Elderly, Identity Theft and Healthy Nutrition for Life.

The Yorkville Police Department would like to thank the following businesses for their assistance: Rush Copley Hospital, Panera Bread, Linden Oaks Hospital, State Farm Insurance, Walgreen's, Coldwell Banker (The Heckelsberg Team), Rosati's Pizza, Richie's, Bridge Street Café, Maciano's, Culver's and Paradise Car Wash

We plan on making this an annual event and will be looking closely at the evaluations to make it even better.