

YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

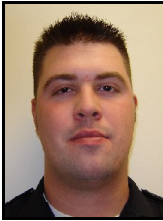
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

November 2007

Meet Our Employee

Officer Jordan Poulos is one of our newest recruits looking to start his law enforcement career in Yorkville.

Officer Jordan Poulos



Officer Poulos was raised in the Tinley Park area and is the second generation police officer within his family. This is not a title that he holds alone, his sister is also a police officer that works at the Chicago Police department.

Prior to his selection as a Yorkville Police Department officer, Poulos attended Moraine Valley Community College, completing his Associates of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Officer Poulos completed this degree in 2006 and immediately after his appointment in Yorkville started his police training at University of Illinois, Police Training Institute.

Officer Poulos was an avid athlete in high school playing football and basketball all four years. He now enjoys sitting in the bleachers supporting his favorite teams. His other pastime passion is NASCAR.

While in law enforcement Officer Poulos would like to expand his career to include truck enforcement. Poulos is single and is looking forward to a long career in this field.

Holiday's Are Coming

We have several holidays approaching and our heads are full of hundreds of things that have to be done to make these special days memorable for all. If handled incorrectly our love ones could remember these days for all the wrong reasons.

Remember the 2007 thanksgiving when we had our house burglarized? That's the type of memories we don't want to have. It really does not take much to employ a little crime prevention to our personal lives.

The police department has a vacation watch list that you can easily use by contacting the police department at 630 553-4340 and talk to one of the office staff. They will ask you several questions while completing a vacation watch form that will assist the officer when checking your residence. Remember you will need a key holder name for this form. It is also very helpful to work with your neighbors so you can look out for each other.



Don't forget about the basics like having your mail and newspapers stopped. A light timer is another smart and inexpensive crime prevention tool.

Have fun, be safe, and make all of your future memories good ones.



How Long Do You Wait?

I recently was a speaker at a training seminar for adult, Boy Scout leaders. My topic was "How long do you wait before calling the authorities on a lost scout."

We recently received an impromptu rehearsal on this topic when a child had walked away from her parents at the local Polish National Alliance camp in Yorkville. Fortunately we had a good outcome with this search and the little girl was located.

We would first like the parent or legal guardian to make a thorough preliminary search of where the missing person was last seen. When children are missing more times than not the child has been found sleeping in the closet, under the bed, or in a self made fort.

After the initial search for the person (and talking to the people, who were in the area when the person came up missing,) call the police. We would much rather be called to the scene and have it turn out to be a false alarm than called out at a later time.

What time span would this entail? It will depend on what circumstances surround the incident. The age of the person, medical concerns, and past practices could be a couple of those issues. We believe as a basic guideline of 30 – 60 minutes should generally give you enough time to complete the preliminary actions, and then make the call, 911.

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Traffic Corner

November is a month that the weather can become unpredictable. Because the weather is so unstable, everyday and holiday traveling can become a problem. There are a few steps a driver can take before embarking on a drive that can ensure that the individual makes it safely to his/her destination.

The first step is to "winterize" your vehicle. Make sure your windshield wiper canister is full of non freezing fluid. This helps keep an icy or snowy windshield clear of weather related obstructions so that a driver can properly see out of it. While under the hood, make sure all the vehicles fluids are full and that the car is running well. In cases where drivers might get stuck in a snowstorm or a snow bank, it is important that a vehicle is in good running condition to ensure that a stuck driver can get heat. Always leave the window open a small amount for proper ventilation and that the area around the exhaust pipe is clear of all obstructions. Gas levels in a vehicle can also aid in keeping a driver warm in cold weather conditions.

After your vehicle is winterized, make sure your car has been cleared off with the snow and ice. If a vehicle has ice or snow on it and is not cleaned off, chunks of snow and ice can fall onto other vehicles driving around on the roadway. This can cause an accident or cause damage to

another vehicle from the falling debris. Also, if a driver can't see clearly through a windshield this can cause hazardous conditions for the driver and the possibility of hitting a parked car or another stationary object is greatly increased.



Another way to make it to your cold weather destination safely is to check road conditions. In cases where the weather is predicted to change, such as snow, ice, or sleet, it is important to check the road conditions and plan appropriate amounts of time to travel to your destination. If a driver under predicts drive time, one tends to travel faster than is safe, increasing the chances of being involved in an accident. There are various ways to check on the road conditions: watching the news and watching the weather report; listening to the radio and the traffic updates on the Chicago radio station; the high technical way of going online and looking at the IDOT highway website can help to estimate your travel times. The IDOT website can also tell the driver if the highway is open or has been closed due to the weather.

Use common sense and *make* time to travel safely, it may not be just your own life that you save.

Your Input Will Help

We are interested in what you think and what you want to learn about. I was discussing this topic with some of the other writers of the newsletter and the question of "is the reader interested on what we are writing?" came into the conversation.

Let me give you some background on how this newsletter is created each month. We basically look for any new crime trends that are happening within our area and get input from our officers on what new training they have gone through that can update our readers.

We would like to give you; the reader the opportunity to interject your recommendations to what you would like to hear about.

Call or e-mail Sergeant Barry Groesch at 630 553-8511 or at bgroesch@yorkville.il.us. We would even like to get your critique on what we have done in the past and how we can make it better.

Crime can only survive if we allow it to. Working as a community teamed against this element of social injustice is one way to make the United City of Yorkville a better place to live.

On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:

www.yorkville.il.us

Illinois Laws:

www.legis.state.il.us

Secretary of State:

www.cyberdriveillinois.com