

# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

September 2009

### School Crossing Guards

Directing traffic is one of law enforcements most dangerous jobs.

Our crossing guards are not only looking out for the safety of the pedestrians, but they have to make sure you see them while you're maneuvering the streets.

We have four School Crossing Guards that work in Yorkville and they are considered police personnel. They are assigned to three high traffic major thoroughfares and one is at a congested school-traffic city street. We try to keep our crossing guards as visual as possible by having them wear lime green traffic vests and have orange cones or pedestrian crossing signs posted near them.

Their job is to get our children across the road in a safe and trouble-free manner. Your patience and understanding of their responsibility is appreciated. If there is an issue with a vehicle, all crossing guards carry a pen and notepad and are encouraged to write the description and license plate of the offending vehicle. An investigation will ensue where a ticket could be issued. We have also worked with the schools, specifically with the Yorkville High School ascertaining if the offender is a student at that school. If it turns out that they are parking privileges could be suspended.

Please pay special attention to our School Crossing Guards to make our streets safer for our children.

### DARE Squad Update

The Yorkville DARE car has been reinvented. The fully wrapped squad had problems with the original "lightening" theme where the material was not adhering properly and needed to be redone.

Officer Hart agreed to administer this project that required designing a new look and acquiring funds to complete the job. Officer Hart did not have to go far for help with the design, his wife Amanda is a gifted graphic designer by trade and completed the overall design.

The squad needed some paint work and Yorkville Body Shop stepped up to the plate and completed the work. This was done at no charge to the police department.

The new wrapping was completed at "cost only" by Strypes Plus More, where the Yorkville Moose agreed to pay for the material to wrap the car.



Our DARE squad has a different look, but still maintains the shaved door handle appearance and low air ride suspension.

We would like to say thank you to Officer Robbie Hart his wife Amanda, Yorkville Body Shop, Strypes Plus More, and to the Yorkville Moose.

### Oswego Yorkville Senior Police Conference

Our fourth Senior Police Academy Conference will be held October 28<sup>th</sup> at the Kendall County Historic Courthouse. The conference registration will start at 8:00 AM with the opening commencing at 8:45 AM with the first class starting at 9:00 AM.

We are proud to offer twenty-five different speakers at this years conference that has been entitled "Emergency Preparedness for Seniors". We have included a new element to this year's conference that was suggested through the 2008 evaluations; Genealogy: Tracing Your Families Roots, and Homes of Kendall County. Stephanie Todd has researched the homes of Kendall County and gives a power point presentation showing a rich history of architecture of our homes in Kendall County.

Rush Copley Hospital will again supply us with a realm of health care sessions ranging from diabetes to joint replacement.

Emergency preparedness will include sessions from Ken Com Dispatch and Bristol Kendall Emergency Medical Technicians. They will give an explanation of what they do and why it is done.

Call Senior Services at 630 553-5777 to receive a registration form to see what classes you want to register for. There will be door prizes and a free meal from Yorkville & Oswego Jimmy John's at the conference.

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### Pedestrian Crosswalk

Yorkville's Mayor Valerie Burd is paving the way for a pedestrian friendly community. As more residents and visitors use walking as a primary mode of exercise and relaxation and transportation, the marking of popular pedestrian crosswalks are becoming a primary focus for Burd and Yorkville's Police Department

To ensure public safety at two of the city's major intersections, Yorkville police have added bright green yield signs as an additional warning to drivers that

stopping for pedestrians is the law. One such sign has been placed on Route 47 and east Main Street

adjacent to the city's popular Town Square Park and the other is in the center of the downtown area located at Route 47 and Hydraulic Ave.

Currently both areas are marked with the appropriate wide white striping's, an indication that it is a designated pedestrian crosswalk. But safety at these intersections has been a challenge because of Route 47 and their central locations.

According to Illinois state law pedestrians have the right of way within a marked or unmarked intersection crosswalk. Drivers of vehicles approaching a crosswalk area when a pedestrian is present are required to stop.



The issue for Burd is the safety of people who are on foot, children and the elderly. "There's a lot of people out there who are driving and don't know that they need to stop for people who are walking across the street in these intersections," Burd said. "I have received several calls from individuals who are elderly and really just need the extra time to get across without being pressured. I also see a lot of people running across the street in these intersections just to beat the traffic. There really isn't any need for that."

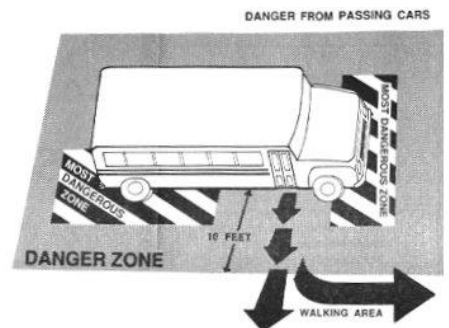
Yorkville's Police Chief Harold Martin confirms that there will be constant and consistent monitoring of the signs and crosswalks.

During the school year the Police Department places the signs at Rt. 47 and Washington Street, Rt. 126 and Mill Street, at Somonauk and King Streets, on Game Farm Road in front of Yorkville High School and City Hall and where children are present and directly across from schools.

### School Bus Safety Tips

School buses are one of the safest forms of transportation in the nation; nearly 2,000 times safer than the family car. Accidents are rare because school districts and the school bus contractors who serve them work hard to train drivers to avoid getting into accidents. Additionally, buses are designed to withstand all but the most serious crashes without death or serious injury.

Surprisingly, more children are hurt outside a bus than inside one. Children must be alerted to the danger zone around every yellow school bus, especially if they bend over to retrieve a dropped school paper, or walk too closely to the bus while crossing the street. Many school districts teach children to take five giant steps as soon as they leave the bus to escape that danger zone. If children need to cross the street after exiting the bus, schools teach them to cross in front of the bus and to be sure they are able to maintain eye contact with the driver.



Perhaps the most difficult thing to teach children, especially young children, is to not go back and pick up items they've dropped near the bus or left on the bus.

Work with your kids on these issues. Safety is everyone's concern.

### On the Web

City Ordinances & Information:  
[www.yorkville.il.us](http://www.yorkville.il.us)

Illinois Laws:  
[www.legis.state.il.us](http://www.legis.state.il.us)

Secretary of State:  
[www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)