



YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

September 2010

Animal Control

In the past couple of months we have had an influx of animal complaints. These complaints range from domestic dogs and cats to wild animals such as raccoons, bats, fox, and deer.

The first thing to know when approaching these animals is to be aware that they can hurt you. We have had a couple of incidents where the resident was trying to help, but ended up getting bitten or scratched in the process. Don't think that we do not appreciate your assistance, but our number one priority is your safety and your family's safety.



If you see a stray dog you are not familiar with, call the Yorkville Police Department by using the 911 system and we will come out and assist you. We can also contact the Kendall County Animal Control to come out and assist us. Just as a reminder, Animal Control will not assist with a stray cat problem.

The Yorkville Police Department has also noticed an increase in what is believed to be a distemper disease within our raccoon population. This is a viral disease that affects various animals that takes away their fear of people and it almost appears that the animal is intoxicated. We have checked with a local veterinarian and unfortunately there is nothing that can be done because the disease is fatal and the animal has to be euthanized. The Yorkville Police Department reminds residents to not approach a raccoon that appears sick or injured as well as to keep pets and children away from them and call 911.

The Yorkville Police Department is there to assist you whenever possible, but there are situations that are more complex and will require a certain specialty. An example of this would be a skunk. Fortunately we have not had any calls on this fragrant animal. We do have contact information for a wildlife specialist that is willing to come out and assist with special situations.

Car & Residential Burglaries

The Yorkville Police Department has been investigating a recent rash of car and residential burglaries. Police are asking residents to be vigilant in reporting any suspicious person(s) or behavior. In addition, police are reminding **ALL** residents to limit the opportunities for criminals by

locking the doors to their vehicles and residents. Here are some additional tips:

- **Lock your doors.** This is as simple as it sounds, but you would be surprised at how much is stolen from cars and residences with unlocked doors. Of course, locked doors don't do much good if you leave the windows down, so roll up windows.
- **Don't leave anything of value in plain site.** The purse or golf clubs that are visible through the window make an inviting target. If you have to leave items in the car, at least put them out of sight in the trunk. Always take these personal items into your home when you park for the evening.
- **Use safety features if you have them.** Activate your car/residence alarm.
- **Park in a well-lit area that is visible to others.** If your car or residence is broken into, it is important that you report this to the police department. The suspect's fingerprints might be found on your car or in your residence, or other evidence might be discovered.
- **Other measures.** If you are a victim, notify the police and make a report. Notify neighbors, neighborhood groups such as Neighborhood Watch or the business or apartment management.

Crosswalk Safety

With the school year now in full swing, the Yorkville Police Department would like to remind parents and students that trained crossing guards are posted at Rt. 126 at Mill St., Rt. 47 and Washington St., Somonauk St. at King St., and Game Farm Rd. in front of Y.H.S. When at all possible, attempt to utilize these crossings for everyone's safety. Whether you walk, bike or drive, take 5 seconds to follow crosswalk safety guidelines.

Pedestrians

- Always cross at marked crosswalks.
- You forfeit your rights as a pedestrian if you cross elsewhere.
- Obey any pedestrian signals and look left-right-left to make sure the road is clear in both directions before crossing.
- If a vehicle approaches, make eye contact with the driver to be sure s/he sees you before you cross.
- Look before walking past stopped vehicles.
- Do not cross just because a driver waves you on. Be sure all lanes are clear first.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles.



Bicyclists

- Yield to pedestrians.
- Remember that bicyclists are not considered pedestrians unless they are walking their

bikes. Otherwise, they are considered vehicles and forfeit their rights as pedestrians in the case of an accident or citation.

- Use marked bike paths or multi-use paths when available.
- Obey vehicular traffic signals and laws on the roadways.
- Use extra caution as you transition between bike paths, roads and sidewalks.
- Be aware that your actions are unpredictable to drivers and pedestrians.

Drivers

- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and at intersections.
- Be prepared to stop at all marked crosswalks. Stay alert and reduce speed in areas with crosswalks.
- Be alert for bicyclists and skateboarders whose approaches to the crosswalk may be much swifter than those of pedestrians.
- Come to a complete stop if pedestrians are crossing or preparing to cross.
- Wait until pedestrians have crossed at least one lane past the lane you are in before resuming travel.
- Never pass another vehicle that has stopped or is slowing down at a crosswalk.

Curfew

With school back in session, and young high school children looking to take advantage of every free moment away from school to be with friends, parents need to be reminded of the laws in Illinois regarding curfew. It is unlawful for a person less than 17 years of age to be present at or upon any public assembly, building, place, street or highway at the following times unless accompanied and supervised by a parent, legal guardian, or other responsible

companion at least 18 years of age approved by a parent or legal guardian or unless engaged in a business or occupation which the laws of the state authorize a person less than 17 years of age to perform:

- Between 12:01 AM and 6:00 AM Saturday
- Between 12:01 AM and 6:00 AM Sunday
- Between 11:00 PM on Sunday to Thursday, inclusive, and 6:00 AM on the following day.

It is unlawful for a parent, legal guardian, or other person to knowingly permit a person in his or her custody or control to violate the above.

If the licensee is less than 17 years of age, the license shall, as a matter of law, be invalid for the operation of any motor vehicle during any time the licensee is prohibited from being on any street or highway under the provisions of the Child Curfew Act. In other words, if your child is out after the curfew hour, and is less than 17 years of age, chances are you may be receiving a phone call from the Yorkville Police Department. In addition, if your child is under 17 years of age, and is out after the curfew hour and is operating a motor vehicle, not en route home from a authorized job and without authorized adult supervision, their drivers license is invalid. This means they will be arrested and cited for No Valid Driver's License.

Silent Auction to Benefit Marje Sauer

Saturday, September 25th, Yorkville Public Library meeting room. Bidding from 5-7 p.m. Winners announced and item pickup from 7-8p.m. Need not be present to win. Numerous items are up for auction. For further information please call: Rita (630) 553-0224 or Sharyl: (630) 552-8180.