

Lyndhurst Police Department

2008 Summer Edition
Volume 1 Issue 1

Commissioner
Robert Giangeruso

Chief of Police
James B. O'Connor

Community Policing



KEEPING THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY SAFE AND INFORMED

Phone Numbers & Links:

- Police/Fire Emergency 911
- Police (non-emergency) (201) 939-2900
- Community Policing Bureau (201) 939-9101
- Lyndhurst Police Department at www.LyndhurstPolice.com
- CrimeReports.com
- SilentPartnerAlert.com
- Township of Lyndhurst at www.LyndhurstNJ.org
- Anonymous Tip Hotline (201) 804-9346 (leave message)

"Lyndhurst P.D. is leading the way in New Jersey by using CrimeReports.com to get the community involved and solve crime," said Greg Whisenant, CEO Public Engines.

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Lyndhurst P.D. first in state to sign on with CrimeReports.com

The Lyndhurst Police Department and Public Engines recently announced that Lyndhurst P.D. became the first law enforcement agency in the state of New Jersey to sign a partnership with CrimeReports.com to share neighborhood crime incident information with community members via the Internet. Under the terms of the partnership, CrimeReports.com allows the Lyndhurst P.D. to publish local crime incident information to the Internet in near real-time, making raw crime data easily accessible and user-friendly for community members. By using CrimeReports.com, members of the public can easily view crime information from multiple jurisdictions where they both live and work in one convenient, easy-to-use location. The published information is presented through a Google Maps interface where residents can review up-to-date crime activity for any location within each agency's jurisdiction.

"CrimeReports.com allows us to more easily share crime data with our community members," said Chief James B. O'Connor.

"It allows us to form a deeper partnership with our community members as we strive to enhance the quality of life in Lyndhurst."

Lyndhurst Public Safety Commissioner Robert Giangeruso agrees. "This is another tool our police department can use



to assist and inform our residents, I am in full support of this program," he said.

The basic information that CrimeReports.com provides is:

- Type of incident (preliminary)
- Date of incident
- Block address of incident
- Other pertinent information as deemed necessary by the reporting law enforcement agency

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enant, CEO Public Engines. "We look forward to a lasting partnership with Lyndhurst PD, and Lyndhurst citizens are going to benefit from accessing local crime data that previously wasn't publicly available."

CrimeReports.com is free to members of the public, and allows users to receive alerts automatically via email if a crime occurs in their immediate neighborhood. It also allows people to view reported crime activity on an easy-to-use map for any location within each agency's boundaries. For more information please give us a call or visit us at:

www.LyndhurstPolice.com
or
www.CrimeReports.com.

Welcome!

The Lyndhurst Police Dept. would like to welcome you to the Community Policing Newsletter. With each newsletter, we will attempt to inform you of what's new at the LPD, as well as to point out some safety tips to help keep you and your family safe.

Chief James B. O'Connor

Lyndhurst Police receive new vehicles and state of the art equipment



Above, Police Chief James O'Connor (left), P.O. John Giammetta, and Commissioner Robert Giangeruso (right), present one of the GEM cars.

The LPD recently received 11 new vehicles that have been purchased by the department without using budgeted funds. The vehicles have been purchased using grant money, forfeited funds, or monies raised thru fees from contractors who require off duty officers and vehicles while working within the township. The \$15.00 per hour fee for use of the patrol cars

was instituted by Commissioner Giangeruso and has lead directly to the purchase of two of the 11 vehicles. A conservative estimate of savings by purchasing the vehicles with all the funds mentioned above is around \$325,000.00. A break down of the purchased vehicles are as follows: 4 unmarked vehicles, 1 patrol SUV, 3 patrol cars, 2 GEM cars, 1 Kawasaki off road MULE 4x4. GEM cars are electric vehicles that are used for a specified patrol zone which encompasses the two main shopping centers, town hall park, the commuter parking areas, as well as a portion of Ridge Road, Valley Brook Avenue and Stuyvesant Avenue. The GEM car, as well as all department patrol vehicles, is equipped with an emergency first aid kit, fire extinguisher, cardiac defibrillator, and oxygen unit. This vehicle will also be used during outdoor events such as concerts in the park, street fairs, etc.

Pictured above right is a portable pole camera that can be used on any of our vehicles that are equipped with a trailer receiver. The camera extends up to 30



Above, Lt. Pete Shellhamer (right) demonstrates the pole camera to Commissioner Giangeruso (left) and Chief O'Connor.

feet in the air and can be used in day or low light conditions. The camera can be viewed on site by the controller, the video can be recorded by using DVR, and it has the capability of streaming the video to an off site location. This equipment will be quite useful in crime prevention and investigations. It also has homeland security applications.

Silent Partner Alert System is now available

The Lyndhurst Police Department is announcing their participation in a new public safety broadcast system aimed at providing residents with up to date information on any public safety issue/incident via e-mail, text pager, cell phone e-mail and PDA e-mail devices. The Silent Partner Alert System will send all registered subscribers need-to-know information based on recent events affecting their neighborhood or the Township of Lyndhurst as a whole, immediately.

To participate in the program, residents and businesses will log in and subscribe to this **free** on-line service by selecting their particular neighborhood and the type of information they want to receive. It's a simple process which takes only minutes to complete.

To register, log onto:

<http://silentpartneralert.com> and select **CLICK** to register for your **FREE ALERTS!!**, located in the top menu area. Complete the first three (3) steps indicating your name and e-mail address. Then, select your state (NJ) and your department (Lyndhurst Police). Next, identify your location within the township via the pictured map: North East, North West, South East, South West or the Corporate Area (east of Polito Ave).

Finally, select the **TYPES** of **ALERTS** you wish to be notified about: Wanted & Missing Persons, Traffic Alerts, Emergency School Closings (non-weather related), Terror Alerts, Weather Emergencies, Sex Offenders ...and many more!

Agree to the terms and conditions and your registration is complete! Residents with questions, comments, or concerns regarding the Silent Partner System can

call the Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-9101.

EXTRA

The FBI is warning the public about an ongoing scheme involving jury service. Please be aware that individuals identifying themselves as U.S. court employees have been contacting citizens by phone and advising them that they have been selected for jury duty. These individuals ask citizens to verify names and social security numbers and then ask for their credit card numbers. If the request is refused, citizens are then threatened with fines.

If you feel you may have been a victim of this scheme, contact us immediately.

Theft of GPS devices

Criminologists say that the products most likely to be stolen are those that are CRAVED – an acronym that stands for Concealable, Removable, Available, Valuable, Enjoyable, and Disposable. Cash and credit cards, two of the most popular theft targets, meet almost all these criteria. Big-screen televisions, on the other hand, are rarely stolen despite their value and enjoyable capabilities because they are not very concealable or removable. Cell phones were once a much CRAVED target, but these days they are neither very valuable nor disposable, since their owners can be easily identified.

Consequently, cell phone thefts have declined considerably in recent years, to the point at which they are mostly stolen by accident when a thief takes a briefcase, purse or break into a vehicle. Enter dashboard GPS devices. Until recently, these electronic gadgets met every criteria of the CRAVED model except “availability.” But within the last two years, they have proliferated, and their popularity has led to signifi-

cant after-market sales for other car owners. Criminals have responded predictably, and many towns throughout the U.S. have reported spikes in GPS thefts since 2006. Although recently there has been a slight decline in the number of GPS thefts, it is very likely these thefts are here to stay as long as GPS devices are CRAVED.

Geographically, the thefts have thus far fallen into two clusters: Residential Areas and Corporate Areas, specifically the Hotels (which is the top hot spot for thefts from vehicles). The hotels were the hot spot favored by thieves in 45% of all thefts from vehicles in the 1st quarter of the year because they know that many out of area visitors are most likely to have a GPS system to help them navigate the unfamiliar area. Statistics show that thefts from vehicles peak between 7:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M., regardless of the day of the week. There is no evidence indicating a specific make or model of vehicle being targeted, but one would have to assume that newer model, expensive vehicles (which of

course are more likely to have the systems) would be the first targeted. Entry is



simply gained by smashing a window or prying a door lock. We don't know what is happening to all the stolen devices. Some of them have turned up at various pawn shops, but not enough to account for all the thefts. We have received intelligence that offenders have been selling them to cab drivers in the Newark and New York City area and we suspect a number of others are sold directly to consumers on the street.

In Lyndhurst, statistics show that 60% of all thefts from vehicles occur in commercial areas.

Preventing thefts from vehicles

Locking a car does little to deter thieves: most thefts are committed by simply *smashing a window* or *prying a door lock*. Common targets include cell phones, purses, wallets, cash, credit cards, briefcases and backpacks, laptop computers, CDs, GPS devices, car stereos and satellite radios. Preventing thefts from cars is easy: don't leave anything of value inside your car! This includes laptop computers, cell phones, wallets, purses, and dashboard GPS devices. Don't make any exceptions—not your own driveway, not your friend's house, not “just running into the store for 5 minutes.” No exceptions! If you choose to ignore us, at least put your valuables out of sight (including any mounting devices). Some thieves don't bother to break into cars if they don't see anything worth stealing, so under the seat or in the trunk is better than nothing.

Child safety seat installation & inspection

The Lyndhurst Police Dept. is proud to offer parents and caregivers free assistance with installing or inspecting their child safety seats. Statistics show that eight out of 10 child safety seats are not installed properly. Have yours checked, or receive assistance installing it, by a certified child seat technician. The process takes approximately 20–30 minutes and includes instruction in properly securing the child

in the safety seat. Parents and caregivers who are expecting a child are urged to have the child safety seat installed four to six weeks prior to the date of delivery. If you would like to schedule an appointment to have your seat installed or inspected, call the Community Policing Unit anytime at (201) 939-9101 or email CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com.

For more information on safety seats go to Lyndhurstpolice.com.



The LPD recently completed another successful year of the DARE Program. Pictured above with Comm. Giangeruso and Chief O'Connor are the LPD DARE instructors and some of the students from this year's graduating DARE class.

Eight points for parents when speaking to their college bound child about drugs and alcohol

- 1. Set clear and realistic expectations regarding academic performance.** Studies conducted nationally have demonstrated that partying may contribute as much to a student's decline in grades as the difficulty of his or her academic work. If students know their parents expect sound academic work, they are likely to be more devoted to their studies and have less time to get in trouble with drugs and alcohol.
- 2. Stress to students that drug and alcohol use is toxic and consumption can be fatal.** This is not a scare tactic. The fact is students die every year from drug overdose and alcohol poisoning. Parents should ask their students to also have the courage to intervene when they see someone putting their life at risk through participation in drug use and dangerous drinking.
- 3. Tell students to intervene when classmates are in trouble with drugs and alcohol.** Nothing is more tragic than an unconscious student being left to die while others either fail to recognize that the student is in jeopardy or fail to call for help due to fear of getting the student in trouble.
- 4. Tell students to stand up for their right to a safe academic environment.** Students who do not drink or use drugs can be affected by the behavior of those who do, ranging from interrupted study time to assault or unwanted sexual advances. Students can confront these problems directly by discussing them with the offender. If that fails, they should notify the housing director or other residence hall staff.
- 5. Know the alcohol scene on campus and talk to students about it.** Students grossly exaggerate the use of alcohol and other drugs by their peers. A recent survey found that University of Oregon students believed 96 percent of their peers drink alcohol at least once a week, when the actual rate was 52 percent. Students are highly influenced by peers and tend to drink up to what they perceive to be the norm. Confronting misperceptions about drug and alcohol use is vital.
- 6. Avoid tales of drinking exploits from your own college years.** Entertaining students with stories of drinking back in "the good old days" normalizes what, even then, was abnormal behavior. It also appears to give parental approval to dangerous alcohol consumption.
- 7. Encourage your student to volunteer in community work.** In addition to structuring free time, volunteerism provides students with opportunities to develop job-related skills and to gain valuable experience. Helping others also gives students a broader outlook and a healthier perspective on the opportunities they enjoy. Volunteer work on campus helps students further connect with their school, increasing the likelihood of staying in college.
- 8. Make it clear -- Drug and underage alcohol consumption and alcohol-impaired driving are against the law.** Parents should make it clear that they do not condone breaking the law. Parents of college students should openly and clearly express disapproval of underage drinking and dangerous alcohol consumption. And, if parents themselves drink, they should present a positive role model in the responsible use of alcohol.

This message is sponsored by the Lyndhurst Municipal Alliance.

Neighborhood Watch Program

The Lyndhurst Police Dept. recognizes that community participation in crime prevention programs is essential to improving the quality of life in the Township of Lyndhurst. One of the most effective ways to promote citizen interaction with police is the sharing of information.

At its heart, The Neighborhood Watch Program encourages this partnership between the police and community. It is a program of neighbors watching out for other neighbors, particularly during times when criminal activity would likely occur. Also, as a part of Neighborhood Watch, citizen groups determine

specific needs or problems and then share this information with local police. The police then act on this information and report back to the group on their progress.

If you are interested in joining a neighborhood watch group in your area, please contact the Lyndhurst Police Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-9101 or complete the form and return it to:

**Lyndhurst Police Dept.
367 Valley Brook Avenue
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071**

Attn:

**Special Operations Division
Community Policing Unit**

Yes, I am a Lyndhurst resident and would be interested in joining a neighborhood watch group in my area.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

E-mail: _____

Best Time to Contact You: _____