

Lyndhurst Police Department

2008 Fall Edition
Volume 1 Issue 2

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)

To receive your free subscription to the Lyndhurst Police Dept. Community Policing Newsletter, forward your e-mail to CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com.

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Aluminum and Copper Theft: Stealing for Scrap Metal

All around the country, people are stealing for metal. Aluminum siding, copper wire and pipe, air conditioner coils, and old radiators are just some of the sought-after items. Petty criminals have also resorted to stealing aluminum gutters and copper downspouts from schools and churches. Some folks have even had the aluminum siding ripped right off their houses by thieves. While stealing for scrap metal is nothing new, the high prices have made thieves bolder and more inventive than before, as they now have over twice the financial incentive for the same amount of risk. Some drive vans or pickup trucks while accomplices perform quick yank-and-runs with gutters in the middle of the night. Others deliberately pose as construction workers and target abandoned or otherwise vacant homes, figuring that neighbors won't question why guys in hardhats are messing with copper pipe, radiators, gutters, or siding. But the thieves aren't just targeting residential sources of aluminum and copper, they're breaking into warehouses and other industrial settings as well.

With the nonferrous metal market not expected to experience any sharp drops in demand, these high prices are expected to continue for at least the next few years. Even if the numbers

merely level off, scrap metal dealers may be forced to change their business methods, as they are a vital link in the crime chain. Affected homeowners and business owners must spend far more than the value of the metal or copper to replace their piping, gutters, siding, downspouts, and other aluminum or copper items, so there is reason for concern, particularly in areas that already see higher crimes rates, unemployment, and drug use. While the issue is unfortunate, stealing for scrap metal is one example of a crime that may be deterred through community action and pressure on scrap metal dealers. If you are wondering whether aluminum and copper theft has spiked in your area, contact the Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-9101 or by e-mail at

CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com.

Halloween Safety: Everyone's business

Well, Halloween is almost upon us and people are really starting to get into the spirit. But ghosts, ghouls and monsters aren't the only things to be afraid of on Halloween. Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant

for possible safety hazards so that the children have a fun and safe Halloween. Accidents and mishaps increase dramatically when children trick-or-treat. Halloween is a cherished tradition, but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real "trick" to making Halloween a real treat for the entire family. To avoid the many dangers children face while trick or treating, use common sense. Be aware of potential Halloween hazards and take precautions to eliminate them. For a list of Halloween safety tips that will help to ensure a fun and safe day for both children, parents and residents alike, contact the Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-9101 or by e-mail at

CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com.

Welcome back!

The Lyndhurst Police Dept. would like to welcome you back to the Community Policing Newsletter. Each newsletter is designed 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

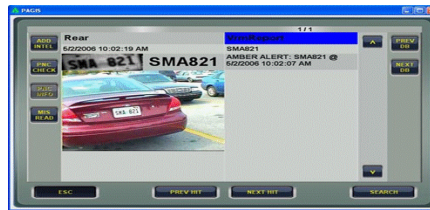
Lyndhurst Police acquire the latest tool in police technology



Above, Police Chief James O'Connor and Public Safety Commissioner Robert Gangeruso stand beside a patrol car outfitted with the ALPR. Below is a sample image which is displayed when a "hit" is received.

The Lyndhurst Police Department recently acquired the latest tool in police technology, an automatic license plate recognition system (ALPR). The ALPR is a patrol-car based license plate recognition system designed to improve officer safety and effectiveness. Using a system of up to four dual-lens camera mounted on the light bar, the system scans the surrounding area for license plates. The system captures color images of each vehicle, as well as an infrared image of the plate, which is converted into a text file that is then checked against onboard

databases of interest (stolen vehicles, wanted criminals, AMBER alerts, etc.) stored in the processor. In the event of a "hit", an audible and visual alert notifies the officer. "It used to be that you would stop at any suspicious vehicle, type the plate number into the computer and wait for a response," said



Chief James O'Connor. "Now, you have a stolen car that passes you that used to go undetected, we'll get a hit on it as soon as it passes."

The ALPR is a \$30,000 system which was purchased, at no cost to taxpayers, with the use of forfeited funds.

EXTRA

The Lyndhurst Police Department would like to announce that we have established an anonymous Tip Hotline. The 24-hour anonymous Tip Hotline is a mechanism for citizens to provide tips on criminal activity and things creating an adverse effect on their quality of life. The Hotline is a dedicated line that is answered by a voice messaging system which is **NOT** equipped with caller ID. Remember, this is an **anonymous** tip line and all information is kept strictly confidential. If you witness a crime that requires immediate police response, please call 9-1-1.

Hotline #
201-804-9346

Lyndhurst CERT members perform at State disaster drill demonstration

On Saturday, September 20, 2008, members of the Lyndhurst Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) participated in the state of New Jersey's annual disaster drill demonstration, which took place at the New Jersey State Police Academy in Sea Girt. The Lyndhurst CERT team boasts the honor of having the largest membership in Bergen County.

The CERT concept dates back to 1985, when the Los Angeles Fire Department recognized that in the early stages of a disaster—earthquakes in particular—local emergency responders would be overwhelmed, and basic training in disaster survival and rescue skills would improve the ability of community members to survive until responders or other assistance arrived.

The tragic events of September 11th remind us that disaster can strike anywhere or anytime, and that basic safety and disaster survival skills can mean the difference between life and death. CERT training empowers community members to prepare responsibly and respond appropriately when emergencies occur. If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake, and people will spontaneously volunteer, what can government do to prepare



Above, Lyndhurst CERT members perform basic first aid during the recent disaster drill demonstration held at the New Jersey State Police Training Academy.

citizens for this eventuality? That's where CERT comes in. If you join CERT, you will receive basic-level training in areas such as first aid, fire suppression, family disaster preparedness, and disaster mental health. If you would like more information on the CERT program, please contact the LPD Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-9101 or by e-mail at CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com.

"Phishing" Fraud: How to Avoid Getting Fried by Phony Phishermen

"Phishing" involves the use of fraudulent documents emails and copy-cat websites to trick you into revealing valuable personal information—such as account numbers, and the login IDs and passwords you use when accessing online financial services providers. The fraudsters who collect this information, then use it to steal your money or your identity or both.

When fraudsters go on "phishing" expeditions, they lure their targets into a false sense of security by hijacking the familiar, trusted logos of established legitimate companies. A typical phishing scam starts with a fraudster sending out millions of emails that appear to come from high-profile financial services provider or a respected internet auction house. provide valuable information about yourself or to "verify" information that previously provided when you established your online account. To maximize the chances that a recipient will

respond, the fraudster might employ any or all of the following tactics:

- **Names of Real Companies**—Rather than create from scratch a phony company, the fraudster might use a legitimate company's name and incorporate the look and feel of its website (including the color scheme and graphics) into the phishy email.
- **"From" an Actual Employee**—The "from" line or text of the message (or both) might contain the names of real people who actually work for the company. That way, if you contacted the company to confirm whether "Jane Doe" truly is "VP of Client Services," you would get a positive response and feel assured.
- **URLs that "Look Right"** - The email might include a convenient link to a seemingly legitimate website where you can enter the information the fraudster wants to steal. But in real-

ity the website that looks for all the world like the real thing. In some cases, the link might lead to select pages of a legitimate website—such as the real company's actual privacy policy or legal disclaimer.

- **Urgent Messages**—Many fraudsters use fear to trigger a response, and phishers are no different. In common phishing scams, the emails warn that failure to respond will result in your no longer having access to your account. Other emails might claim that the company has detected suspicious activity in your account or that it is implementing new privacy software or identity theft solutions.

Want to receive e-mail alerts on the latest scams, missing persons, terror alerts, weather emergencies and much more? Sign up for free at silentpartneralert.com.

Retirement Announcement



After a long and distinguished career with the Lyndhurst Police Department, Deputy Chief Carl Cinardo announced his retirement from the force this past summer. Deputy Chief Cinardo joined the LPD in September of 1979 and was promoted through the ranks, becoming the Department's second in command on September 13, 2007. During that time, Deputy Chief Cinardo was instrumental in the design and implementation of the Department's Special Response Team, for which he served as the unit's Commanding Officer. Deputy Chief Cinardo also served as the training coordinator and chief firearm's instructor. Deputy Chief Cinardo will most certainly be missed and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

Alert: Hit Man E-Mail Scam Persists

The FBI and its partner, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), continue to receive thousands of reports concerning the hit man e-mail scheme. The e-mail content has evolved since 2006, however the messages remain similar in nature, claiming the sender has been hired to kill the recipient. Two new versions of the scheme began appearing in July 2008. One instructed the recipient to contact a telephone

number contained in the e-mail and the other claimed the recipient or a "loved one" was going to be kidnapped unless a ransom was paid. Recipients of the kidnapping threat were told to respond via e-mail within 48 hours. The sender was to provide the location of the wire transfer five minutes before the deadline and was threatened with bodily harm if the ransom was not received within 30 minutes of the time frame given.

The recipients' personal identifiable information was included

If you have received an e-mail of this nature, report it immediately to the LPD or contact the FBI at www.IC3.gov.

in the e-mail to promote the appearance that the sender actually knew the recipient and their location.

Perpetrators of Internet crimes often use fictitious names, addresses, telephone numbers, and threats or warnings regarding the failure to comply to further their schemes. In some instances, the use of names, titles, addresses, and telephone numbers of government officials and business executives, and/or the victims' personal identifiable information are used in an attempt to make the fraud appear more authentic.

Helping Them to Say No to Drugs and Alcohol

The Lyndhurst Police Department is proud to be at the forefront of the War on Drugs, but we only win this war with everyone's help. Studies show that the children least likely to use drugs and alcohol are from homes where parents talk to their children openly about the negative impact of drug/alcohol use. Parents, by their example, have significant influence over their children. Here are some ways that you can help our children "Just Say No":

1. Set Rules

It's important to set clear rules and consequences. It's equally important to carry through with punishment. Don't let your children off the hook if they disobey. Punishments should be reasonable but must contain negative consequences.

2. Plan

Children, as part of their responsibility in attending social functions, must provide parents with "Who, What, Where, When" information. You can be proactive by making sure adult supervision is in place at a party you child attends. Call the host parents to go over details. You can also take your child to the door to say hello, offer help, or just to ensure adults are present. Trust your instincts. If you sense something is wrong, don't be afraid to step in. Make it easy for your children to leave a situation where drugs or alcohol show up. If they feel uncomfortable, tell them to contact you or another designated adult. They can pretend that they missed a call from you so they can call home and clue you in by saying, "Why do I have to come home early?" You can then provide an excuse for them and go get them. Know your child's friends and their parents and try to make regular contact with those parents.

3. Talk

Talk to your children about potential drug/alcohol situations and encourage them to tell you about experiences they or their friends have had and how they've resolved them. Help them pick good anti-peer-pressure "excuses" such as "I'm an athlete and I can't do that," or "My parents will ground me forever." Having prepared excuses can make it easier for children in stressful situations. Going over the responses until they're second nature is another good technique. You can practice through role-playing by pretending to be a friend pushing them to experiment. Teach them to change the subject, asking about a friend's particular interests—like music or movies—just to push along the conversation. Initiate discussions on peer pressure based on situations you have witnessed. "I saw you and Johnny playing in the neighbors' yard today, and you know we talked about not doing that." Teach your children to respect rules and stand up to their friends firmly, though in a friendly manner. Encourage your child to stand up for themselves and what they believe early in their lives or they will always rely on you to "save" them. Again, remember children imitate the behavior they see in you. Reinforce your child's assertiveness. Tell them you are proud and/or made a good decision.

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: _____