

# Lyndhurst Police Department



2010 Summer Edition  
Volume 3 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) 939-2900 ext. 2770
- Lyndhurst Police Department at [www.LyndhurstPolice.com](http://www.LyndhurstPolice.com)
- CrimeReports.com
- Nixle.com (register to receive free text and e-mail alerts)
- Township of Lyndhurst at [www.LyndhurstNJ.org](http://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](mailto:CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com).*

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## LPD issues Free Child ID kits to Lyndhurst Students

The Lyndhurst Police Department recently distributed through the local schools a do-it-yourself child identification kit to help protect our children and promote child safety awareness. The distribution of the child identification kits is the latest demonstration of the Lyndhurst

from the child as well as a travel ID card to accompany you should you be away from home. When a police officer responds to a report of a missing child, the officer is responsible for obtaining as much information about the child as possible. As a result of this

cards remain in the possession of the child's parents or guardian and can be updated as the child grows older.

According to Chief James O'Connor, "We all hope it never happens, but if a child is missing, time efficiency becomes paramount as the first few hours are crucial to recovery." For more information on the child ID kits, please contact the LPD Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-2900 ext. 2770 or by e-mail [CommunityPolicing@lyndhurstpolice.com](mailto:CommunityPolicing@lyndhurstpolice.com)



Pictured above, back row from left to right is Franklin School Principal Kathy Stopherd, Franklin School PTA representative Doris Ann Pezzolla, Public Safety Commissioner Robert Giangeruso and Police Chief James O'Connor. Front row Paul Cimicata, Giulia Ann Pezzolla, Gabriel Arcentales and Alyssa Engles

Police Department's proactive approach to keeping our community safe. Each child from kindergarten through eighth grade recently received a free kit. The ID kit is designed to assist parents and guardians in easily creating and maintaining a private and comprehensive record of their child's personal identifiers, medical information, a recent photo, and any unique physical characteristics for use in an emergency. The ID kit is also equipped with a cotton swab for taking a DNA sample

being an arduous and emotional time, parents or guardians may forget some of their child's important identifiers. "In Lyndhurst, all children are our children. We want the child ID kits to be a tool that is available to everyone of them," said Public Safety Commissioner Robert Giangeruso, "and with the free ID kit, any parent or guardian can provide the police with accurate information about their child immediately, saving precious time in the investigation." The child ID

*Do you want to receive e-mail alerts on the latest scams, missing persons, terror alerts, weather emergencies and much more? Register for free at [Nixle.com](http://Nixle.com).*

### Welcome back!

The Lyndhurst Police Dept. would like to welcome you back to the Community Policing Newsletter. The LPD strives to be the state's premier municipal police department. Thank you for your interest in our newsletter and have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Chief James B. O'Connor

## Changes to New Jersey Graduated License (GDL) Law

On May 1, 2010, the requirements for all teens (16-20 years of age) holding a permit or provisional license under New Jersey's Graduated Driver License (GDL) Law, will change. To ensure that GDL holders comply with the law, they and their parents should be aware that the teen driver:

- may not be on the road between 11:01 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- may transport only one passenger in the vehicle besides his or her dependents.

(Note: If a parent or guardian is in the vehicle, the passenger restriction is waived and the teen may transport as many passengers as there are seat belts.)

- may not use a cell phone (hand

held or hands-free), ipod or other wireless electronic device.

(Note: GPS systems – portable or built-in – and ipods connected to a vehicle's sound system are permitted, but a teen should not make any adjustments to these devices while driving.)

- must ensure that all vehicle occupants are properly restrained in child safety seats or seat belts.
- must display a decal on the front and rear license plate.
- may not plea bargain any point carrying offenses.

There will be NO grandfathering of existing permit and provisional license holders. Regardless of how much time a GDL holder has remaining on her or his permit or provisional license, s/he

must abide by these requirements which began May 1st. In addition, the name of the provisional license will change to probationary; this will be reflected on documents issued after May 1st. For more information on the GDL please visit [NJteendriving.com](http://NJteendriving.com).



## The Decal

The New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission is charged with designing and distributing the decal, which must be displayed on a vehicle's front and rear license plate when a permit or provisional license holder under 21 years of age is driving. The decal will be:

- affixed with a velcro system to allow for its removal when the GDL holder is not behind the wheel.
- reflectorized so that it can be seen at night.
- non-descript (it is intended for enforcement purposes).
- \$4 per pair at MVC agencies.

(Note: MVC is developing a bulk purchase program for driving and high schools, police departments, and other organizations.)



## "Stop and Remain Stopped" for Pedestrians Law



On January 18, 2010, Governor Jon S. Corzine signed into law legislation revising the statutes concerning pedestrian safety and traffic control, primarily R.S. 39:4-36. The revisions require drivers to stop and remain stopped for pedestrians under certain conditions. R. S. 39:4-32, 35, and 115 are amended as a result of this legislation; R.S. 39:4-35 is repealed. The full text of the law can be found at:

<http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2008/Bills/PL09/319.PDF>.

Violators are subject to a \$200 fine, plus court fees, as well as insurance surcharges. In addition, violators will receive two motor vehicle penalty points against their drivers license.

## Department Promotions

On March 1, 2010, Commissioner of Public Safety Robert Giangeruso announced the following promotions within the Lyndhurst Police Department: **Anthony Preite** – Detective, **Vincent Auteri** – Detective, **Ron Guirland** – Detective



Pictured from left to right is Police Chief James O'Connor, Detective Anthony Preite, Detective Vincent Auteri, Detective Ron Guirland and Commissioner of Public Safety Robert Giangeruso.

## Lyndhurst CERT receives emergency trailer

Lyndhurst was one of only two Bergen County towns to receive a mobile utility trailer outfitted with emergency response equipment for its growing Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) from the New Jersey State Police's Office of Emergency Management on May 26, 2010.

CERTs are groups of average citizens, who are voluntarily trained to support first responders, assist victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. The Lyndhurst Cert program has now trained close to 200 people since it adopted the CERT program in 2005.

Lyndhurst received the emergency trailer as a way of recognizing their CERT program for being one of the most active municipal CERT teams in the county. In total, nine trailers were distributed statewide. Each trailer contains equipment necessary to set up a mobile command post and triage center. Items include a tent, electric generator, emergency lights, stretchers, rescue devices, and medical supplies, as well as a \$1,500 check for additional supplies. The total package is funded with a federal homeland security grant.

New Jersey is home to one of the largest number of CERT volunteers in the nation. Team members are taught skills such as basic first aid, light search and rescue, preliminary damage assessment, and fire suppression to help prepare members of the public to serve as an initial response to emergencies in their communities. For more information on the CERT program contact the community policing unit.

## Solar-Powered Safety

In Lyndhurst, in an effort to keep pedestrians and drivers safe, the township has purchased a number of traffic signs which feature LED lights that blink throughout the day and night. These signs are solar-powered and therefore capture the sun's energy to generate and store power, but more importantly they capture the attention of the oncoming motorist. "These signs function all day, every day, regardless of the weather condition," according to Commissioner of Public Safety Robert Giangeruso, "the added bonus is that no taxpayer money was used to purchase the signs." The township utilized appropriated funds from an hourly fee utility companies and businesses pay the town for the use of a police car when officers work special assignments at work sites. "The signs are low maintenance and are cost effective because they do not rely on traditional electric power so there is no utility bill to pay," added Giangeruso. Currently there are 15 intersections utilizing solar powered **stop** signs. Additionally, two intersections feature solar powered **pedestrian crosswalk** signs, while another 12 intersections are equipped with solar powered **stop for pedestrians in crosswalk** signs.



## Neighborhood Awareness: The Key to Crime Prevention

The Lyndhurst Police is asking the public to remember that being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. This is particularly true at this time of the year when various criminals and con artists use the warm weather to take advantage of the elderly. Watchful eyes in the neighborhood can spot criminals and alert police and the community to their presence.

The spring and summer months are the time when "deception burglars" reappear in this region. Typically these are criminals on the move who begin working in the southern states and head north to states like New Jersey when the weather starts getting nicer.

Deception burglars generally work in pairs. One member approaches the victim, pretending to be someone benevolent: perhaps a contractor looking for work or a utility worker out to test a system. The criminal may also pose as a family friend of a relative, or the friend of a neighbor. While that criminal distracts the victim, another moves through the house, seeking out valuables. Often the victim doesn't even know he or she has been victimized for hours or days.

Other criminals are con men, posing as contractors, who convince victims that something is wrong with their home. They ask for payment in cash, do a shoddy job, and then disappear.

The elderly are the most likely targets of these criminals, since they tend to be trusting, and very concerned about their property, their relatives and their neighborhood.

Local residents can help their elderly neighbors by checking in on them, and keeping an eye on them. If, for example, a neighbor sees an elderly resident in conversation with a stranger, they could politely inquire about what is going on. If residents see strangers sizing up their neighbors' home, that could also be a sign something is wrong. In that case, a call to the LPD will get an officer to the scene to check things out.

Involvement such as this builds stronger bonds between neighbors, and helps maintain safe neighborhoods. For more information on these or any other type of scams, or to simply address any of your concerns, please feel free to contact the Lyndhurst Police Department Community Policing Unit at (201) 939-2900 ext. 2770. Safety presentations can also be scheduled for your group, organization, school or business.

## 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) 939-2900 ext. 2770 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: \_\_\_\_\_