

# Lyndhurst Police Department



2009 Spring Edition  
Volume 2 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](http://www.LyndhurstPolice.com)
- CrimeReports.com
- SilentPartnerAlert.com
- 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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## Scams and Fraud Awareness and Prevention

A familiar diversion scam targeting the elderly has recently resurfaced here in Lyndhurst. Older citizens are victims of fraudulent schemes far out of proportion to their population members. The Lyndhurst Police Department wants to make everyone aware of the following con that works like this: An unknown male or female posing as inspectors from the utility company knocks on your door claiming to be conducting a routine inspection of the water inside your home and asks to enter your home and inspect the faucet in your kitchen. After a few seconds, the suspect advises you that your water is dirty and that you should let it run for 2-3 hours. As a consolation to the increase in your water bill, the suspect offers to provide you with \$25.00 in cash to help defray the cost. This is where the fun begins. The suspect will advise his target(s) that he only has a \$100 bill and asks if you have change. More often than not, the victims will often make the effort to get change. The con artist is fully aware that most, if not all, people do not keep cash in their kitchen and, as a result, the con artist will follow the victim into another room as the victim innocently retrieves the cash. The con artist knowing where the cash is kept will relay the information to a second suspect who will make his/her way into the house, steal

the money and flee often with hours, or even days before the theft is detected. You should always check the credentials of any public official or salesperson. Make sure to call the utility company directly to verify the credentials of the "inspector" and the inspection notice. If the person is truly from a utility company they won't mind your caution. You should always use your telephone directory when calling the utility company rather than the number given to you by the "inspector." You may also contact the police department immediately as well if you are suspicious or just feel uncomfortable. Citizens should never allow anyone that they do not know into their home. This is one of a number of scams that are out there today. Be especially wary of: "Get rich quick" schemes for which you have to put up "good faith" money, "good deals" on expensive repair or home improvement jobs (especially roofs and driveways), investments that promise unusually larger returns, work at home schemes, and door-to-door sales just to name a few as the list is endless.

If you are the victim of fraud, call the police immediately. You may be embarrassed because you were tricked, but your information is vital in

catching the con artist and preventing others from being victimized. Be skeptical about any proposal that sounds too good to be true or has to be kept a secret. Don't rush into anything. Check it out with friends, family, or the police department. For more information on these and other scams, please do not hesitate to contact us.

[CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com](mailto:CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com).

*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](http://silentpartneralert.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

## Internet Safety Tips for Parents

1. Put the computer in the family room or living room so you can easily monitor your children's online activity.

- Never share their password, even with friends.
- Never arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone

2. Set reasonable rules and guidelines for computer use by your children. For example, be sure your children or grandchildren understand that they should:

- Never Give out personal information (name, home address, phone number, age, date of birth, race, name of school, photos, etc.) to an unknown person or in a public message, such as a chat room or bulletin board.



they meet online unless you approve of the meeting and go with them to a public place.

- Never respond to a message that is suggestive, obscene, threatening, or make them feel confused or uncomfortable.

- Never use a credit card online without permission.

3. Be sure your children understand what you consider appropriate sites for them to visit. Consider installing software or online services that filter out offensive material and sites.

4. Stay informed about your child's internet interests and the amount of time he or she spends online.

## Retirement Announcement



After a long and distinguished career with the Lyndhurst Police Department, Lieutenant Richard Jasinski announced his retirement this Spring. Lt. Jasinski joined the LPD on January 12, 1977.

Lt. Jasinski was promoted through the ranks, and served as a Supervisor in the Patrol Division. During his tenure, Lt. Jasinski served the Department as a firearms instructor, as well as the liaison to the Lyndhurst Police Emergency Squad. Lt. Jasinski is also well respected in the community for his years of support to the Lyndhurst baseball and hockey programs. Most recently, Lt. Jasinski's son, Richard, Jr., joined the Lyndhurst Police and is currently training at the police academy. Lt. Jasinski will certainly be missed and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

## Lyndhurst Police Auxiliary: To Serve and Assist

This spring marks the 67th year of existence of the Lyndhurst Police Auxiliary. The Auxiliary Police was established in 1942. The auxiliary police force is a volunteer organization composed of civic minded people who work together to improve the level of safety and security in our community. Its mission and purpose is to augment the officers of the Lyndhurst Police Department by providing crowd control, traffic control, and aid in the visual deterrence of crime. The unit provides protection and security for municipal properties such as schools, parks and recreational fields, and other designated areas. The unit may also respond to calls for police service as directed by proper authority. These services are provided through commitment to the Lyndhurst Auxiliary Police unit, the Lyndhurst Police Department and the community with integrity and professionalism. The presence of the Auxiliary Police, in uniform or on patrol in marked police units has been proven to reduce vandalism and other crimes in the community. All Lyndhurst Auxiliary officers are required to attend

and graduate from the Auxiliary Police course at the Bergen County Law and Public Safety Institute in Mahwah, NJ. While there, auxiliary officers receive training in areas such as first aid, traffic control, and patrol functions. All auxiliary officers are outfitted with a patrol uniform and will be required to work a regular patrol schedule.

If you would like more information on the Lyndhurst Police Auxiliary, or are interested in becoming a member of the Auxiliary Police, please contact the Lyndhurst Police Department or visit our website at [lyndhurst-policeauxiliary.com](http://lyndhurst-policeauxiliary.com).



*Want to know more about what's happening in town? Visit [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com) to view crime incident information in your neighborhood. You can also sign up to receive free e-mail alerts.*

## Retirement Announcement



After a long and distinguished career with the Lyndhurst Police Dept., Lieutenant Jerome Onnembo announced his retirement this Spring. Lt. Onnembo joined the LPD on June 1, 1970. Lt. Onnembo was promoted through the ranks, and served as the Supervisor of the Traffic Division. In 2007, Lt. Onnembo received the Chief Jack Sprengle award for outstanding achievement, dedication and professionalism in the field of police traffic safety from the New Jersey Traffic Officers Assoc. Lt. Onnembo will certainly be missed and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

## Kids' Rules for Online Safety

1. I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents' work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents' permission.
2. I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
3. I will never agree to get together with someone I "meet" online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
4. I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
5. I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault if I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the service provider.
6. I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online, and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without permission.
7. I will not give out my internet password to anyone (even my best friends) other than my parents.
8. I will be a good online citizen and not do anything that hurts other people or is against the law.



## Retirement Announcement



After a long and distinguished career with the Lyndhurst Police Department, Captain Joseph Sarnoski announced his retirement from the force this past winter. Capt. Sarnoski joined the LPD in February of 1977. Capt. Sarnoski was promoted through the ranks, achieving the rank of Patrol Captain. During his tenure, Capt. Sarnoski also served as PBA president and as a firearms instructor. Capt. Sarnoski is highly regarded throughout the Law Enforcement community for his tireless effort and dedication to the New Jersey Special Olympics. Capt. Sarnoski will certainly be missed and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

## LPD is First Police Dept. in the Nation to Receive MIA-OON Flag

On Saturday, April 18, 2009, the Lyndhurst Police Department was presented with the MIA-OON (Missing in Attack On Our Nation) flag making it the first Police Department in the Nation to be bestowed with this honor. The flag, which is black and yellow in color, is dedicated to the memory of those who perished on September 11, 2001 and proudly displayed to keep their memory alive.

The flag was presented to Public Safety Commissioner Robert Giangeruso (pictured right) and Police Chief James O'Connor during a ceremony in front of the Lyndhurst Town Hall. The organization chairman, Mr. Ronald James Sorenson, passionately addressed the crowd announcing the flag represents our application of the horror of terrorism, and our resolve to eradicate it from our world.



## Conversations for Critical Times

### What happens if you suspect that your teen is already using alcohol and drugs?

The conversation is the same: parents need to tell their kids that drug and alcohol use by teens is not allowed in your family. The issue won't go away until you do something. You will simply have to acknowledge that your teen has a problem — your teen is using drugs and that won't get any better until you take action on your teen's behalf. It is OK to ask for help. In fact, getting help may make it easier for you to have the conversation.

Practice the conversation ahead of time. You may have to have a couple of "practice runs." These conversations are not easy but they are worthwhile. Talking it over with your spouse/partner beforehand will help you keep a level head and speak to the issue.

#### Key Talking Points:

- We are here to make it clear that we will not tolerate any drug or alcohol use by you.
- We have rules in the family. The rules do not permit teen drug and alcohol use.
- Even though you think everyone is using drugs or alcohol, it is illegal and not allowable.
- You can endanger your life and the lives of others. We don't want anything bad to happen to you. I don't know what I'd do if I lost you.
- We count on you as a family member. Your brothers and sisters look up to you and care about you. What would they do if you were gone?
- Drug and alcohol use can ruin your future and chances to...graduate, go to college, get a job, and keep your driver's license.
- We are here to support you. What can I do to help you not use?
- Sometimes kids use drugs and alcohol because there are other issues going on like stress, unhappiness and social issues. Have you thought about this? Are there other problems you want to talk about?
- Are your friends using? How are you handling that? Is it hard to not use in that environment?
- We won't give up on you because we love you. We're going to be on your case until you stop completely. If you need professional help, we will be there to support you and help make it happen.

*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: \_\_\_\_\_