

# Lyndhurst Police Department



2011 Spring Edition  
Volume 4 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: 9-1-1
- 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
- [Twitter.com/lyndhurstnjpgd](https://twitter.com/lyndhurstnjpgd) (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 receives grant for Project Lifesaver Program

This past winter, the Lyndhurst Police Department was awarded a grant to participate in the Project Lifesaver program. Project Lifesaver was formed to develop a program for locating missing persons with dementia, Epilepsy, Alzheimer's, autism, Down Syndrome and other related illnesses. The program involves identifying at-risk persons of wandering by attaching a radio transmitter device to their wrist or ankle by way of a plastic or nylon wristband. The battery operated radio transmitter emits an inaudible pulse once per second that can be picked up by a receiver operated by trained and certified police officers. Project Lifesaver utilizes radio frequency tracking technology,

from several approved manufacturers, which is tested by member agencies before being approved for field use. As of March 2011, over 2,329 persons, in North America, have been located in an average time of less than 30 minutes. Project Lifesaver, in addition, to it's recovery program, also provides training for public safety personnel in dealing with the disorders they may encounter in their daily duties.

For more information on the Project Lifesaver Program, or to apply for use, please contact the Special Operations Division at (201) 939-2900 ext. 2770 or by e-mail at [CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com](mailto:CommunityPolicing@LyndhurstPolice.com).

## Do You Twitter?

In case you haven't heard, the new rave in our culture is Twitter. It is hard to turn on the news or a sporting event and not hear something about Twitter. What is Twitter? Twitter is a service for friends, family, and co-workers to communicate and stay connected through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? The Lyndhurst Police De-

partment is using Twitter as a community outreach tool to provide information to the public. This site is not taking the place of any of our "normal" communication, but gives people the option of getting some information through our Twitter site. It is free to join Twitter and we encourage you to establish your account and become a "follower" of the LPD at [www.twitter.com/lyndhurstnjpgd](http://www.twitter.com/lyndhurstnjpgd).



### Reminder to all motorists:

**Failing to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk carries a \$200 fine, and two points will be issued against your driver's license.**

*Want to receive E-mail and text alerts on the latest scams, missing persons, terror alerts, weather emergencies and much more? Sign up for free at [Twitter.com/lyndhurstnjpgd](https://twitter.com/lyndhurstnjpgd)*

### Welcome to the LPD Newsletter!

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

## Tips for Strong Online Passwords

*A strong password is your first line of defense against intruders and imposters.*

**Never give out your password to anyone.** Never give it to friends, even if they're really good friends. A friend can accidentally pass your password along to others or even become an ex-friend and abuse it.

**Don't just use one password.** It's possible that someone working at a site, where you use that password, could pass it on or use it to break into your accounts at other sites.

**Create passwords that are easy to remember but hard for others to guess.** When possible, use a phrase such as "I started 7th grade at Lincoln Middle School in 2004" and use the initial of each word like this: "Is7gaLMSi2004."

**Make the password at least 8 characters long.** The longer, the better. Longer passwords are harder for thieves to crack.

**Include numbers, capital letters and symbols.** Consider using a \$ instead of an S or a 1 instead of an L, or including an & or % – but note that \$1ngle is NOT a good password. Password thieves are onto this. But Mf\$1avng (short for "My friend Sam is a very nice guy) is an excellent password.

**Don't use dictionary words:** If it's in the dictionary, there is a chance someone will guess it. There's even software that criminals use that can guess words used in dictionaries.

**Don't post it in plain site:** This might seem obvious, but studies have found that a lot of people post their password on their monitor with a sticky note. Bad idea. If you must write it down, hide the note somewhere, where no one can find it.

**Consider using a password manager.** Programs or Web services like RoboForm (Windows only) or Lastpass (Windows and Mac) let you create a different very strong password for each of your sites. But you only have to remember the one password to access the program or secure site that stores your passwords for you.

**Don't fall for "phishing" attacks.** Be very careful before clicking on a link (even if it appears to be from a legitimate site) asking you to log in, change your password or provide any other personal information. It might be legit or it might be a "phishing" scam where the information you enter goes to a hacker. When in doubt, log on manually by typing what you know to be the site's URL into your browser window.

**Make sure your computer is secure.** The best password in the world might not do you any good if someone is looking over your shoulder while you type or if you forget to log out on a cybercafe computer. Malicious software, including "keyboard loggers" that record all of your keystrokes, has been used to steal passwords and other information. To increase security, make sure you're using up-to-date anti-malware software and that your operating system is up-to-date.

**Consider a "password" for your phone too.** Many phones can be locked so that the only way to use them is to type in a code, typically a string of numbers. Sometimes when people with bad intentions find unlocked phones, they use them to steal the owners' information, make a lot of calls, or send texts that look like they're coming from the owner. Someone posing as you could send texts that make it look like you're bullying or harassing someone in your address book with inappropriate images or words.

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## Gypsies and Gypsy Scams

For local law enforcement purposes, the word "gypsy" refers to people who travel in small groups across the country perpetrating crimes of theft, burglary and fraud. Over the past several summers, residents of Lyndhurst and the surrounding jurisdictions have been victims of what have become known as "gypsy scams."

Gypsy scams are incidents that occur in daylight hours, in which the suspect will, literally, walk right into someone's home for the purpose of stealing jewelry or money. Very often, the homeowner is either in or near the home. If these individuals are caught, they give some kind of excuse as to why they are in the home or on the property. Usually these individuals are not violent and run from the home as soon as they are discovered.

The best way to keep these individuals from victimizing you is to simply keep your home locked, even when you are working in the yard. Remember, anytime you are outside your home, you cannot possibly see every door on your home that a would-be thief would use.

As with any suspicious circumstance, call the Lyndhurst Police Dept. immediately. The non-emergency number as always is (201) 939-2900. Naturally, if it is an emergency, do not hesitate to call 911. For more information on this or any other type of scam, contact the Community Policing Bureau at (201) 939-2900 ext. 2770 or by E-mail at [specialoperations@lyndhurstpolice.com](mailto:specialoperations@lyndhurstpolice.com). Remember, always trust your instincts!

## Mark Your Belongings

Nothing is worse than showing up to a home or vehicle burglary and asking the victim what they are missing, only to hear an answer similar to "I don't know." It is extremely important to know what items you own in case you are ever the victim of a theft. Marking and inventorying your property can be easier than you think.

When stolen property is recovered by Law Enforcement Agencies across the Country, the search for a victim begins. Police can run serial numbers through computerized databases or call names and numbers found on cards and papers. But nothing is easier than having a name and other identifying number written directly on the item.

It is important for our citizens to know that computer companies such as Dell and Apple make and sell thousands of laptop computers a year. It is hard to tell one from the other without a serial number or identifying feature. Also, when an officer locates something that they think is stolen, they can't necessarily seize the item unless they can prove it is stolen. This is not as easy as it sounds and can be very difficult at three in the morning with no one to talk to.

Marking your property can simply been done with a permanent ink pen or marker. For starters, put your first initial, last name. You can get more creative by emblazing your driver's license number. All of these identifying marks are clearly recognizable to an officer who may come across your property. A simple DMV records check, and the officer can have your home address where they can contact you. If you prefer not to use a license number, put your name and a cell phone number.

Computers and digital cameras have provided the easiest method yet for tracking your belongings. For roughly \$20 you can purchase home inventory software. The software allows you to enter an item along with several pictures. You can add when and where the item was purchased, the dollar amount and where in your house it is located. Most importantly, you can enter the make, model and serial number. The software then creates a document which can be printed or burned to a CD. When and if something is stolen, you can provide Law Enforcement with a detailed list of what is missing including photos (photos are invaluable when proving ownership). You can even create a video of your entire household. The video certainly wouldn't take long to make and is a detailed record of what you own. A simple search of the internet will provide you with the names of several versions of home inventory software. The LPD does not recommend any specific software, but remember that whatever you will actually use is the best bet.

Victims everywhere have said that having a detailed record of ownership has proven valuable after tragic occurrences such as a fire or flood. Dealing with the insurance company will be much easier if you can hand them a CD of everything that has been lost or damaged. More often than not, property is unable to be returned due to the fact that often the victim could not be located. Don't let this happen to you. Mark your items and be prepared.

## Retirement Announcement



After a long and distinguished career with the Lyndhurst Police Department, Deputy Chief Charles "Buddy" Giangeruso announced his retirement on December 31, 2010. Deputy Chief Giangeruso joined the LPD on October 7, 1985 and worked his way through the ranks becoming Deputy Chief on September 1, 2009. During his tenure, he was well known for many accomplishments, but most notably for the creation of the Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team, which consists of a group of volunteers who assist the police in comforting and counseling victims of domestic abuse. Because of his leadership, the LPD-CRT has become the model for departments throughout Bergen County. Deputy Chief Giangeruso is also a past president of PBA Local #202 and will forever be recognized as a guy who always offered unwavering guidance and support to his colleagues. Deputy Chief Giangeruso will certainly be missed, and we wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

Reminder to all parents and guardians: Children under 4 feet 9 inches tall must use the proper child restraint system when riding in a motor vehicle. For more information, contact the Traffic Division at (201) 939-2900 ext. 2625.

## Traffic Safety



May 23 - June 5, 2011



August 19 - September 5, 2011

## ICE - In Case of Emergency

**ICE – In Case of Emergency** - programming of cell phones is a concept that was developed by a paramedic in England. He realized that most of his victims did not carry emergency contact information but did carry cell phones. So the campaign he started was to get people who carry a cell phone to put in a listing of **ICE** in their cell phone directory with a number that should be called In Case of an Emergency.

With over 190 million cell phone users in the United States, this could be very valuable to a lot of people in times of an emergency.

It is simple to do. First type the acronym **ICE** in your contact directory of your cell phone then the phone number of the person to be contacted in an emergency.

It has also be suggested that you add a period at the beginning of the acronym. This puts the listing first on the directory list. Thus **.ice** This also makes it quick for you to call this number since on most cell phone - after you push the Phonebook button the first entry is highlighted and ready for you to push the send button to make the call.

Some individuals like to add the name of the person after the ICE acronym. Thus, if someone wanted Bob to be called in an emergency, the contact listing might look like: **ice-bob**

A number of public safety agencies here in the United States are training their first responders to look for the **ICE** acronym in the cell phones of those that are not able to tell the first responder who to call In Case of an Emergency.

It has been proven that the ability to get vital health and medical information about a victim can be very important in how paramedics may treat someone who is unconscious.

The use of ICE for children can be very important because most do not carry wallets that would provide other important contact information. An **ICE-mom** or **ICE-dad** could be very important in providing this emergency contact.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_