



ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT Community Report

Fall of 2009 Edition



From The Chief

Chief Chet Epperson

On behalf of the entire Department, I present the fall of 2009 edition of the Rockford Police Department's *Community Report*.

The Rockford Police Department understands the importance of being connected with the citizens we serve by communicating to them our ongoing activities and operations inside the Department.

We continue establishing new initiatives and programs with the goal of reducing crime and improving our overall solve rate.

The Rockford Police Department will strive to achieve this objective by implementing Community Oriented Policing components with the citizens we serve. Please review the material in this report and learn more about how the Department is moving forward in embracing innovative policing strategies.

From The Mayor

Larry Morrissey



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of the Rockford Police Department, members of our neighborhood groups and associations, and the countless others that have dedicated themselves to improving our city.

As you know, Community Oriented Policing does not begin and end with our police officers; it involves each and every one of our citizens. Through your involvement in activities such as neighborhood groups and community watches, you are playing an important role in lowering our crime rate and making our neighborhoods feel like a safer place to live, work, and play.

I invite you take a few minutes to review the *Community Report*. Inside these pages you will learn more about initiatives such as our Citizen's Police Academy and the Youth Police Academy. Programs such as these allow our citizens and police to work together to solve the issues in their neighborhood.

Thank you again for the work in improving our community. If you haven't had a chance to join a neighborhood group or attend our Citizen's Academy, please consider this my personal invitation. Your commitment to building a better Rockford has made a difference.

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Trick or Treat times are from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Home owners

1. Keep your property well lit.
2. Keep your pets in a safe and secure location.
3. Keep your yard free of all obstacles.

The following are some safety tips:

1. Parents should remain with their children.
2. Trick or Treaters should stay in-groups.
3. Trick or Treaters should remain in well-lit areas.
4. Trick or Treaters should use caution on roadways and follow all traffic laws.
5. Trick or Treaters should wear reflective clothing if possible and carry flashlights.
6. Trick or Treaters should watch out for animals. Animals that are normally friendly may act differently due to the costumes.
7. Trick or Treaters and adults should carry cell phones.
8. Trick or Treaters should only approach well-lit houses.



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ACCREDITATION

In December of 2008, The Rockford Police Department successfully passed its first CALEA Assessment. CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) is an accreditation program whose purpose is to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

CALEA's goals are to:

- Strengthen crime prevention and control capabilities;
- Formalize essential management procedures;
- Establish fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices;
- Improve service delivery;
- Solidify interagency cooperation and coordination; and
- Increase community and staff confidence in the agency.



The CALEA Accreditation Process is a proven modern management model; once implemented, it presents the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), on a continuing basis, with a blueprint that promotes the efficient use of resources and improves service delivery - regardless of the size, geographic location, or functional responsibilities of the agency.

Source: www.calea.org

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

On June 4th, 2009 The Rockford Police Department held a swearing in, promotion and award ceremony at Rockford College's Fisher Memorial Chapel. Two new officers were sworn in that day, Joseph Sester and Matthew MacRoy. 19-year veteran, Kevin Ogden was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. The following personnel were awarded the exceptional service medal: Deputy Chief Lori Sweeney, Craig Youngberg, Officer John Hoeksema, Detective Kevin Nordberg and Sergeants Michael Ahrens, Sara Ahrens, and Kristen Mclester



The following personnel were presented with letters on commendation: Patricia Bond, Lisa Ekedahl, Janie Long, Jennifer Phillips, Suzanne LaMay, Investigator's Aurelio DeLaRosa, Tammy Kuczynski, Joel Givens and Matthew Krantz for their work on the department's recent accreditation. Detective Harold Combs received the award for his ongoing work with Cops-N-Bobbers

The exceptional service medal is awarded for outstanding performance that has reflected credit upon an employee and the Rockford Police Department. The out-standing performance may be in the form of an unusual apprehension, investigation, extraordinary display of valor, successful completion of a difficult task, or an unusual service to the Department or community.



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NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM

The Neighborhood Watch Program is a highly successful effort that has been in existence for more than thirty years in cities and counties across the United States. It provides a unique infrastructure that brings together local officials, law enforcement and citizens to protect and improve our communities.

There are over 30 active Neighborhood Associations in the City of Rockford at this time.

If you would like more information on the Neighborhood Watch Program, please contact the Community Services Unit at 987-5041 or the Neighborhood Network at 987-5599

Starting a Neighborhood Watch means getting and staying involved!

Help keep your neighborhood safe.



RESIDENTIAL SECURITY

The home with a “lived in” or “at-home” look is a deterrent to burglars. Follow these simple rules, even when you’re leaving the house for “just a couple of minutes”:

- Lock all outside doors and windows.
- At night leave one or more lights on in locations not visible from windows, or use inexpensive plug-in timers that will turn the lights on and off.
- Leave a radio playing, preferably tuned to a talk show with the volume low. This will create the impression of a conversation Do not leave notes indicating your absence.
- Shut and lock the garage door.
- Do not leave extra keys in hiding places; the burglar will look for them.

SECURITY TIPS

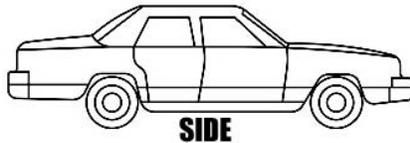
- If you live alone, use only your first initial and last name on your mailbox and telephone listings.
- Always answer your door, but never open it to strangers. Use your door viewer peephole and talk to the person through the door.
- Require all service men and sales representatives to show proper identification. (Uniforms alone should not be considered as proper I.D.)
- If strangers telephone or come to your door, don’t indicate that you are alone.
- Keep window shades down and curtains closed at night.
- You should have a telephone located in your bedroom for quick access.
- Report any suspicious sounds, activities, automobiles or people to the police.



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VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION



LICENSE NUMBER: _____

VEHICLE MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____

VEHICLE TYPE (CAR-VAN-ETC.) _____

BODY STYLE (2DR-4DR-ETC.) _____ YEAR: _____

COLOR(S): _____

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL: _____

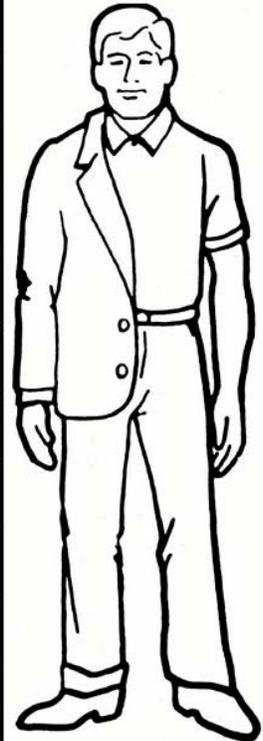
DATE & TIME: _____

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

SUSPECT IDENTIFICATION

		FEET	IN	LBS	
SEX	RACE	APPROX HEIGHT		WEIGHT	AGE

HAIR COLOR / STYLE
COLOR EYES / GLASSES
BEARD / MUSTACHE
COMPLEXION / SCARS
SPEECH / ACCENT
SHIRT / TIE
COAT / JACKET
PANTS / JEANS
HAT / CAP
SHOES / BOOTS
TATTOOS / OTHER MARKS



**STAY ON THE TELEPHONE
PLEASE DON'T HANG UP**

**CRIMES IN PROGRESS
911**

**OTHER CRIMES
987 - 5800**



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BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

Burglary to vehicle is a crime of opportunity and therefore in many cases preventable. Don't become a victim; protect your vehicle and personal property.

What items are most commonly stolen from vehicles?

- Stereo equipment
- MP3 Players
- GPS / Satellite Navigation Systems
- Laptop computers
- Cell phones
- Purses & wallets

Protect Your Property

- Always lock the doors and close windows, even if you're only going to be away from your vehicle for a short time
- Never leave property in plain view
- Take audio and satellite navigation equipment with you
- Remove the satellite navigation cradle and wipe away any windscreen mark
- Keep packages, store purchases, etc. in the trunk or out of view.
- Park in a well-lit area at night
- Utilize your neighbor and be a good neighbor. Pay close attention to your neighbor's property and vehicle



911 is the emergency phone number for the Rockford Police Department and the Rockford Fire Department.

You should only call 911 to report a crime or for emergencies requiring immediate police or fire department assistance

Call 9-1-1 for

- In-progress crimes or crimes when the suspect is still in the area.
- Traffic accidents when parties are still on-scene.
- Hit-and-run traffic accidents.
- Any crime involving bodily assault.
- Any domestic violence crime.
- Theft or intentional damage to property with at least \$10,000 in loss or damages.
- Motor vehicle (licensed for the road) theft.
- Bomb, terrorist or hate-bias threats or acts.
- Burglary (entering a structure with the intent to commit a crime, e.g. theft, damage to property.)
- Suspicious persons, vehicles or circumstances when in-progress or suspects are still in the area.
- Fires or possible fires.
- Emergency medical or medical transport needs.

When you dial 911, please stay on the line, do not hang up! Calls into 911 are taken in the order in which they are received. If you hang up and call back, your call goes to the last in queue, making your wait longer.

Please report all non-emergencies and suspicious activity by calling 815-966-2900



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CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY



The Rockford Police Department believes that education can be very effective in helping gain understanding and support from the community. The Citizen Police Academy offers citizens insights into how police officers perform their duties and how the department serves the community.



The first Rockford Police Department Citizens Police Academy was held April 8 through May 27, 2009. The following twenty four citizens attended and graduated the program:

Sharon K. Abels
Donna Addy
Brad Bainter
Kieshia Bernard
Judith Boone
Jodi Dayhoff
Nancy Gerber
Lori Gustafson

William Hazer
Pamela Hoffstrom-Saunders
Tom Kromm
Linda Ksiazek
Lynne Landi
Catherine McClure
Patricia Michelsen
Sara Peppers

Richard Peterson
Kimberly Philbrook
Gerald Sandin
MerryLynn Sandin
Sandra Tower
William Treadman
Joan Wardzala
Deborah Weaver

YOUTH POLICE ACADEMY

The Rockford Youth Police Academy is designed to introduce students to law enforcement community in a variety of fun, interesting and civic minded ways. "Youth Cadets" learn from and participate in various demonstrations of law enforcement units, designed to enhance student understanding of the law enforcement role in public safety.



This summer two Youth Police Academies were held. 31 "Youth Cadets" participated in the academy that took place July 13th through the 17th at Lewis Lemon Global Academy, 1993 the Mulberry St. Another 39 participated in the second which took place August 3rd through the 7th at the Patriot Gateway Center, 615 S. 5th Street.



The "Youth Cadets" who attended each Academy learned about a variety of law enforcement topics and the criminal justice system from members of the Rockford Police Department, Rockford Park District Police and Winnebago County Sheriffs Department. "Youth Cadets" also received training from Rockford Fire Department personnel.



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BACK TO SCHOOL SAFETY

School Crossing Zones



When approaching a marked school-crossing zone between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m., on days when school is in operation and when school children are present, a driver should reduce his/her speed to 20 mph and yield to any children or adults crossing in the crosswalk area. Speeding in a school-crossing zone will result in a \$150 fine.

A driver who causes bodily or great bodily harm to a child or crossing guard in a school crossing zone is subject to imprisonment and fines of up to \$25,000 as well as a possible minimum one-year suspension of driving privileges.

School Buses

You must stop before meeting or overtaking a school bus loading or unloading passengers on a two-lane roadway. A warning will be given at least 100 feet (200 feet in rural areas) in advance of a stop. The bus driver will flash amber and red lights on the front and rear of the bus.

The stop signal arm will be extended after the school bus has come to a complete stop. You must then come to a complete stop.

You must remain stopped until the stop signal arm is no longer extended and the flashing lights are turned off or the driver signals you to pass.

You do not always need to stop when meeting a stopped school bus on a roadway with four or more lanes. You do not need to stop if you are traveling in the opposite direction of the bus, but you should drive cautiously.

Your driver's license or vehicle registration will be suspended for three months if you are convicted of illegally passing a stopped school bus. If you receive two such convictions within five years, your driving privileges will be suspended for one year. In addition to the suspensions, violators will be fined \$150 for a first conviction and \$500 for a second or subsequent conviction.

Children Playing

Children often forget the dangers of playing near traffic. Some are not old enough to realize the risks of playing in or crossing the streets. Drivers and parents must use care to ensure the safety of children.

- Watch for signs that mark special hazard areas such as school zones, bus stops, playgrounds, parks and schools.
- Be watchful and ready to reduce speed in residential areas, school areas and places where children are most likely to be.
- Be extremely watchful when backing in or out of a driveway when children are near.
- Teach children the rights and responsibilities of pedestrians at an early age.
- Assign play areas for children. Make sure children do not play in or near streets, driveways or other dangerous areas.

Source: Illinois Secretary of State – Rules of the Road



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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2009



On Tuesday evening, August 4, 2009 National Night Out was celebrated at Nelson Park. National Night Out is an annual event designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, generate support for participation in local anticrime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a strong message to criminals that neighborhoods are fighting back.

Hundreds of in the community joined Mayor Larry Morrisy, Chief of Police Chet Epperson, Division Fire Chief Frank Schmitt, Winnebago County States Attorney Joe Bruscato, State Representative Chuck Jefferson and many others in celebrating this year's event.

Activities at this year's event included: a helicopter landing, a K-9 demonstration, Bomb Squad robot demonstration, dunk tank, lives performances, food and fun for all ages.

National Night Out 2009 would not have possible without the dedication and hard work of the City of Rockford, Target, the Rockford Park District, the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office and Project First.

ROCKFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chet Epperson, Chief of Police

420 West State Street Rockford, Illinois 61101-1288

Phone: (815) 987-5839

Fax: (815) 961-3208

Emergency 911

Non-Emergency (815) 966-2900

www.rockfordil.gov/government/police

The following information can be found on the Rockford Police Website:

2008 Use of Force Report

2008 Bias Free Policing Report